AGRI-NEWS

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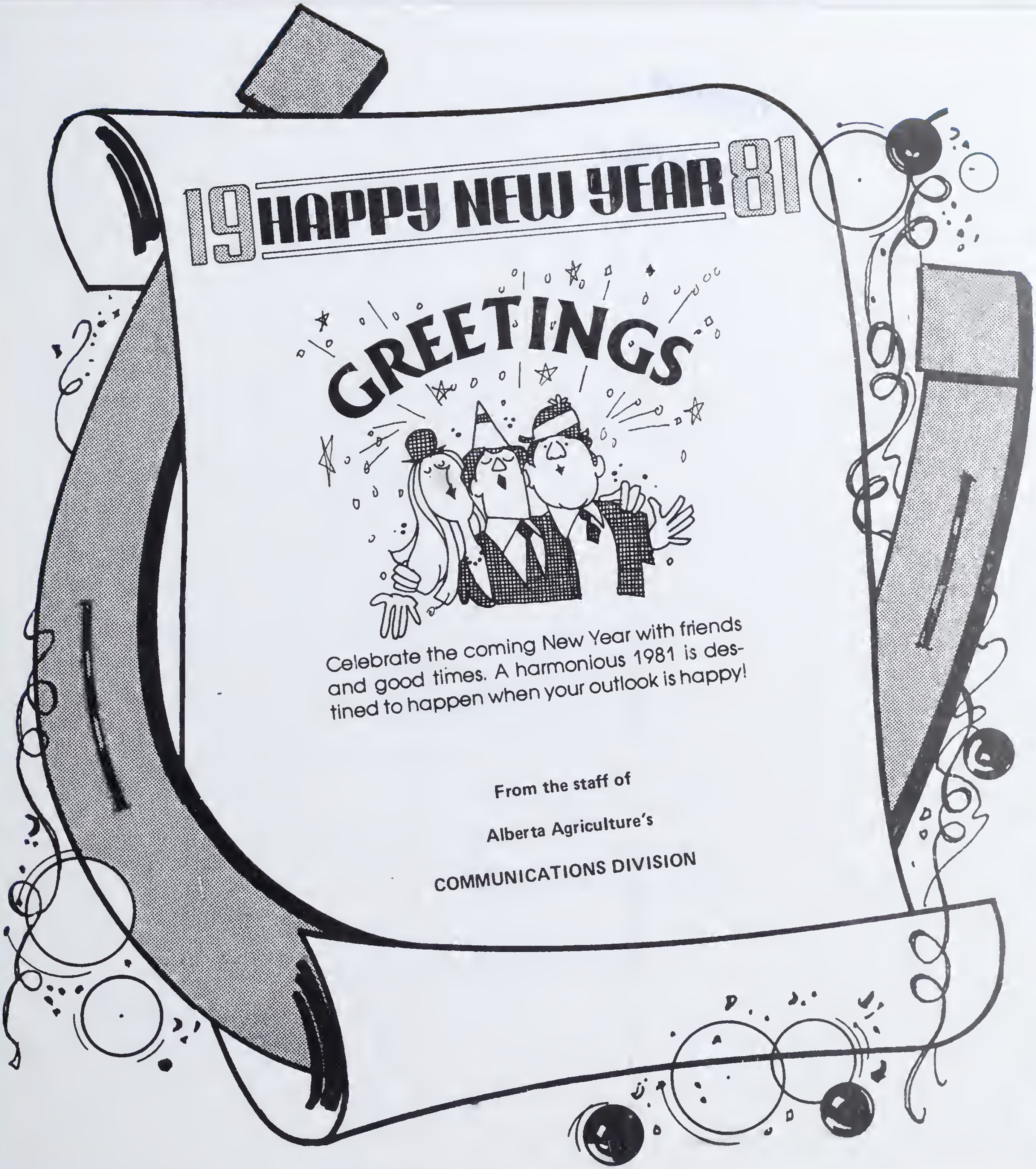

Celebrate the coming New Year with friends and good times. A harmonious 1981 is destined to happen when your outlook is happy!

From the staff of

Alberta Agriculture's

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

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January 5, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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January 5, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURE IN THE YEAR 2030

by Daniel Stadlwieser
Grade 6, South Edmonton

Farmers fifty years ago thought that they were very advanced. We have come a long way from then. Imagine yourself in the year 2030.

There you see a jet powered combine in the middle of the field, sucking up grain from as far away as 200 miles. The combine is chucking the grain into a gigantic contraption called a cereal maker. Surprise! Out come a million boxes of cereal.

A flying saucer, twirling around, cuts the straw and hay really close to the ground. A huge baler sucks up the hay. It can do 200 acres of hay per minute

There also exists a gigantic flying machine, measuring 10 km^2 that drops seeds from way up in the sky into the ground Another new invention is a plow that can make the ground as soft as the farmer wants it. I can also see a gigantic holemaker that makes holes in the ground every two millimeters so the seeder can drop the grain in perfectly.

And finally the greatest creation possible is the weather machine controlled by a satellite. At the mere pull of a switch, whatever weather is needed can be supplied.

When farming began it was the most miserable profession. But now it is easy. Imagine how exciting it will be by 2030.

–Submitted for the agricultural writing contest carried in 'Mountain Standard Time', Alberta's first magazine for children by children in grades 4,5 and 6.

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January 5, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SELF HELP FOR CATTLEMEN

by Ross Gould
Beef Cattle & Sheep Branch, Alberta Agriculture

Beef producers can increase their gross returns from their annual calf crop by as much as 25 per cent, or up to at least $120 per calf sold, by taking advantage of the new breeding strategies which have been developed during the past 15 years.

Uncertain Times

Speaking to a group of commercial cattlemen, pure bred breeders, researchers and government livestock personnel at the National Beef Improvement Conference, held at Olds in 1980, a British Columbia rancher, Gordon Parke, suggested that the 80's are likely to bring uncertainty and a fair degree of difficulty to Canadian beef producers. The current business recession; rising costs for feed, labor, interest and energy and uncertain markets, due to surplusses of other meats and government import policies, will all make planning difficult and profits uncertain, he said.

He then outlined several areas where cattlemen can look for help as they seek to cope with the economic forces which are working to erode their already faltering market returns. Things like enlightened government tax policies; a beef import law; new beef production research and Beef Watch, the carefully thought out analyses of the present state of the beef cycle, can all help the beef producer. Mr. Parke told the conference, however, that cattlemen themselves must be the primary source of their own salvation. The productivity of a beef operation can be improved greatly by using the results of research and experience already available. "This can be accomplished," Mr. Parke said, "by increasing the weaning weights of calves and finishing slaughter cattle out at 14 months instead of the usual 20 to 24. These two practices alone would result in considerable savings in feed costs and interest charges, savings that would go directly to the producer or to the feeder.

- (cont'd) -

Self Help For Cattlemen (cont'd)

Tom, Dick and Harry

To demonstrate his point, Mr. Parke described three imaginary beef producers Tom, Dick and Harry. All three are good managers and take a pride in their spreads which have a well maintained range and well maintained facilities and equipment. Each runs a herd of 260 commercial cows from which he sells 200 feeder calves each fall.

Tom has always been proud of topping the market with calves from a herd of straightbred cows, bred back to good fleshy bulls from the same breed. His calves are extremely uniform and average 420 pounds at weaning. However, Tom has been having an increasingly difficult time over the past few years to make ends meet.

Some years ago, Dick decided he wanted more growth in his calves, so he quit going with Tom to get his replacement bulls from their usual source. He now buys more rugged, faster-gaining bulls. Some of these bulls are the same breed as his cow herd and he buys them from breeders who are performance conscious. Some of his herd sires are purchased from another breed altogether. They are chosen for rapid gains. To avoid calving problems, Dick is careful to use the bulls of the second breed on his better cows rather than on his heifers. His calves average 500 pounds at weaning time.

Harry is doing still better. For a long time he has made every possible effort to upgrade his breeding program. He culls ruthlessly any cows or bulls that do not measure up to the herd average. He uses bulls from any breed which will give him good milk in the dams and extra growth and muscling in the calves. His calves are not all uniform in color, but they average 580 pounds when weaned, and the feeders who buy them come back for more.

The Payoff

After describing the three herds, Mr. Parke went on to analyse the annual returns. (The prices in this example are updated to correspond with central Alberta quotations for November, 1980).

- (cont'd) -

Self Help For Cattlemen (cont'd)

Tom's Calves

420 lbs. @ $1.00 = $420/calf x 200 = $84,000

Dick's Calves

500 lbs. @ $0.95 = $475/calf x 200 = $95,000

Harry's Calves

580 lbs. @ $0.95 = $551/calf x 200 = $110,200

Even though Tom topped the market with his lighter more uniform calves, both Dick and Harry grossed much more on their calf crops. On the November,1980, market, there was not much of a premium on lighter calves, so Tom got $11,000 less than Dick and $26,200 less than Harry for his calf crop.

In view of the rapid increase in feed costs, Alberta feeders estimate that by the spring of 1981, a pound of gain will cost between 80¢ and 85¢ in the feedlot. With a price for fat cattle of about 80¢ to 85¢ expected in the spring of 1981, the wide negative margins for light feeder calves will no longer be seen in the market.

Extra Costs?

Harry grossed $131 per calf more than Tom. When looking for extra costs in Dick's and Harry's herds compared with Tom's herd, Mr. Parke suggested that the cost of bulls might be the only variation. He pointed out that since prices are now roughly the same among most major breeds, there would be very little extra cost for the growthier bulls. He also contended that Harry's cows need not be significantly heavier than Tom's. He pointed out that the popular "black-baldy", Hereford-Angus cross female, is not really larger than many of the popular straight breeds. Those who have them agree that they have few problems calving progeny from any sire.

- (cont'd) -

Self Help For Cattlemen (cont'd)

Even if Harry's cows were heavier than Tom's, they would not need more than an extra 10 to 12 per cent of feed. In this example, that would use up only a small part of the extra 31 per cent of the returns he got for his calves.

Mr. Parke concluded his example by pointing out some of the pitfalls people like Tom should avoid if they decide that they could use some of the extra profit from a crossbred beef production system with the emphasis on growth rate, muscling and milk production.

- Do not mate the growthier bulls of some of the European breeds with small cows or heifers. Make sure big bulls are bred to females which can handle their progeny.
- Ruthlessly cull cows for infertility and inability to wean heavy calves.
- Give growthy crossbred heifers with a high milk production a bit of extra feed during their first gestation and during their second breeding season. Without enough feed to support their two-year-old growth and their extra milk production, they will run down in condition and conception rates will suffer. No one wants to cull a big growthy heifer that has just weaned a 550-pound calf because she is "empty" in the fall. However, that could happen if she is not properly fed the previous winter and in early spring.

In summary, Mr. Parke pointed out that a rancher who runs 260 cows can increase his gross income by as much as $26,000 (over $130 per calf, or more than 30 per cent) by developing a carefully thought out commercial cross-breeding program. Such a program should emphasize the selection of fast-gaining sires from another breed that is recognized for its high milk production or from performance tested growthy bulls from the same breed as his original cow herd. The latter should be used back on to the first generation crossbred heifers and cows.

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January 5, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VEGETABLE OILS COULD FUEL FARM MACHINERY IN THE FUTURE

Canola oil, derived from rapeseed, may one day help to alleviate farm fuel problems , according to a scientific paper presented at the Canadian Society of Agricultural Engineering meetings.

The paper outlined an experiment in which degummed canola oil was used in two diesel engines. It was used in a fifty-fifty mix with diesel oil and alone in a small stationary engine and in a John Deere diesel engine. Since there was very little difference in the performance of the two fuels, the researchers believe that canola oil could be used as a valuable fuel extender and that it could be very valuable in an emergency supply situation.

Farmers in Rhodesia have apparently been running their machinery on sunflower oil for sometime and using the crushed meal or residue from the oil extraction as a high quality livestock feed.

Britain's biggest manufacturer of diesel engines, Perkins Engines, located in Peterborough, believes that farm tractors could soon be running on sunflower oil or fuel derived from eucalyptus trees, sugar cane or coal. The company is working on a power unit derived from the diesel engine that will operate on diesel oil or almost any type of fuel that can be developed.

Although the results from soya, maize and other vegetable oils are promising, the company researchers say harvesting, extracting and refining are very expensive. However, the fuel could well prove viable in a country like Brazil where such crops are easily grown.

Two other fuels that have been investigated - ethanol from sugar cane and methanol from coal or wood — are not yet feasible because they will not mix with diesel oil if there is the smallest amount of water present. However, since alcohol without water is virtually non-

- (cont'd) -

Vegetable Oils Could Fuel Farm Machinery In The Future (cont'd)

existant, Perkins research engineers believe that they can design an engine that can cope with water.

The Canadian researchers say the main obstacle at the present time to the widespread use of vegeteble oil for motor fuel is economics. The amount of canola oil, for example, that is required to provide the energy of a gallon of diesel fuel would cost approximately $2.80. However, this price could become less of an obstacle as petroleum prices rise, and vegetable oil could be an attractive alternative at any price in the event of a petroleum shortage.

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January 5, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEER FARMING IN NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand has approximately 900 licensed deer farmers, involving about 80,000 animals, and the number is increasing.

According to Trevor Bryant of the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture, who is spending a year with Alberta Agriculture, red deer make up the bulk of the deer on New Zealand farms, but wapiti hybrids are growing in popularity. Fallow deer are also found but in much smaller numbers. All the deer farms are very carefully regulated and the deer have to be confined behind six-foot fences with one wire electrified. This is because of the environmental damage they cause, particularly to the native forests. As recently as 1970 deer were considered to be a noxious animal in New Zealand.

Mr. Bryant reports that New Zealand exports about 3,000 tonnes of venison a year, mainly to West Germany. Deer skins, tails, blood, eyeteeth, sinews and pizzles are also exported to southeast Asia. However, according to Mr. Bryant, the real money is in the velvet or developing antlers which are removed from the stags. It is harvested twice a year and either ground up or liquified before being shipped to southeast Asia where it is used for medicinal purposes. In many parts the deer is considered to have mystical properties, which explains the demand for such things as eyeteeth. These are sold as goodluck charms.

The average one year-old stag produces 0.3 kg of velvet annually, while three year-olds and older animals produce about 2 kg. Production can be even higher with good breeding, and the price paid for the velvet is very much governed by demand. However, most deer farmers in New Zealand plan on a price of $200 NZ ($1 NZ = 86¢ CN) per kg for grade A velvet. Wapiti deer produce slightly more velvet than red deer and fallow deer slightly less.

- (cont'd) -

Deer Farming In New Zealand (cont'd)

New Zealand deer farmers receive $3 NZ net per kg for their venison. The average weight of a red deer carcass is about 65 kg and the average weight of a wapiti carcass is 88 kg. Fallow deer carcasses are smaller.

Originally the deer now on New Zealand farms were either captured through the use of tranquilizer guns shot from helicopters or through the use of specially constructed corrals in the forests and on open grass areas. At the present time there are farms which specialize in raising breeding stock, which is distributed to the commercial farms.

Mr. Bryant says deer farming in his country has gone through a period of rapid growth over the last two years, but that prices are now stabilizing and the industry is looking forward to a period of consolidation. During the last year, the price of a breeding doe increased to more than $3,000 NZ from about $800 NZ. The price of a high-producing stag with a good head increased to more than $4,000 NZ from $400 NZ. An average run-of-the-mill stag now fetches up to $1,900 NZ. However, over the last four months, prices have stabilized with good breeding stock selling at around $2,000 NZ and stags raised for velvet production selling about $1,800 NZ.

Mr. Bryant believes that the deer farming industry in New Zealand will probably double in size over the next decade, and that prices for velvet will drop to some degree as the industry continues to consolidate. Since the market for velvet, in particular, is limited, the profit from deer farming is not likely to be as great in the future as it is at present. But, in Bryant's opinion, the demand for venison will grow and probably be the industry's saving grace.

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January 5, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1980 CROP REVIEW

Despite a somewhat ominous beginning, 1980 turned out to be an excellent year in terms of crop production, and a record number of acres were seeded, according to Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch. The 5.9 million acres of summerfallow (6.4 million acres in 1979) represented the smallest summerfallow acreage since 1947.

In spite of the frost in central Alberta on August 25, which reduced grain yields in that area, and poor harvesting weather during September, record yields were recorded for wheat, oats, barley, mixed grains and potatoes. The second highest yields on record were recorded for flax and rapeseed/canola, with both oilseed and grain production reaching an all time high for the province.

However, the quality of the 1980 crop was lower than the 1979 crop, mainly because of poor harvesting weather. Heavy rains caused lodging in heavy crops and weathering and discoloration caused grade reductions, especially in the northern and central regions of the province. Frost damage also contributed to lower grades, especially in late seeded crops. Uneven germination and development in the oilseed crops resulted in a higher count of green seeds than usual. However, irrigated crops were harvested in good condition, and the potato crop was of good quality.

Statistics Canada estimates of the average yields per acre of the principal grains and oilseeds (with the previous five-year average in brackets) are as follows: In kilograms per acre -- wheat 905 (795); oats 975 (875); barley 1095 (980); rye 740 (735); flaxseed 495 (430); rapeseed/canola 515 (440). In bushels per acre – wheat 33.2 (29.2); oats 63.1 (56.6); barley 50.3 (44.9); rye 29.2 (29); flaxseed 19.4 (17); rapeseed /canola 22.7 (19.4).

- (cont'd) -

1980 Crop Review (cont'd)

Forage Crops

Hay was the one disappointing crop in 1980. Its yield was less than the previous 10-year average. The first crop was very light in nearly all areas of the province and prices soared, reflecting shortfalls in local areas and in neighbouring provinces. However, frequent summer rains ensured a good second cut and many farmers increased their greenfeed acreage.

The quality of the first cut was excellent, but the quality of the second cut was not as good because of poor weather during the late summer and fall. The average provincial yield of 1.6 tonnes per acre (1.76 tons/acre) was lower than that of last year, and lower than the 10-year average. The lowest yield was reported in the eastern and Peace River regions where the effects of a dry spring were most pronounced. However, feed supplies are expected to be adequate for the winter feeding period. Greenfeed and silage crops were very good and there is a plentiful supply of straw.

Disease

Disease problems were normal in 1980, although a few areas indicated sclerotinia, and root rot reduced rapeseed/canola yields. Root rot also reduced winter wheat yields in the Claresholm-Vulcan-Strathmore areas.

Hail and Weather Damage

Weather-related crop losses were below normal in 1980. Claims made by Alberta farmers totalled about $30 million, according to the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation. This figures is less than that recorded in 1979. The main causes of losses were hail, the frost on August 25 in central Alberta, drought in a few northeastern and northern Peace River districts and harvesting losses brought about by excessive moisture in northern and west-central Alberta. Hail insurance claims accounted for $17 million, which were paid out under the Hail Endorsement Program.

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January 5, 1981

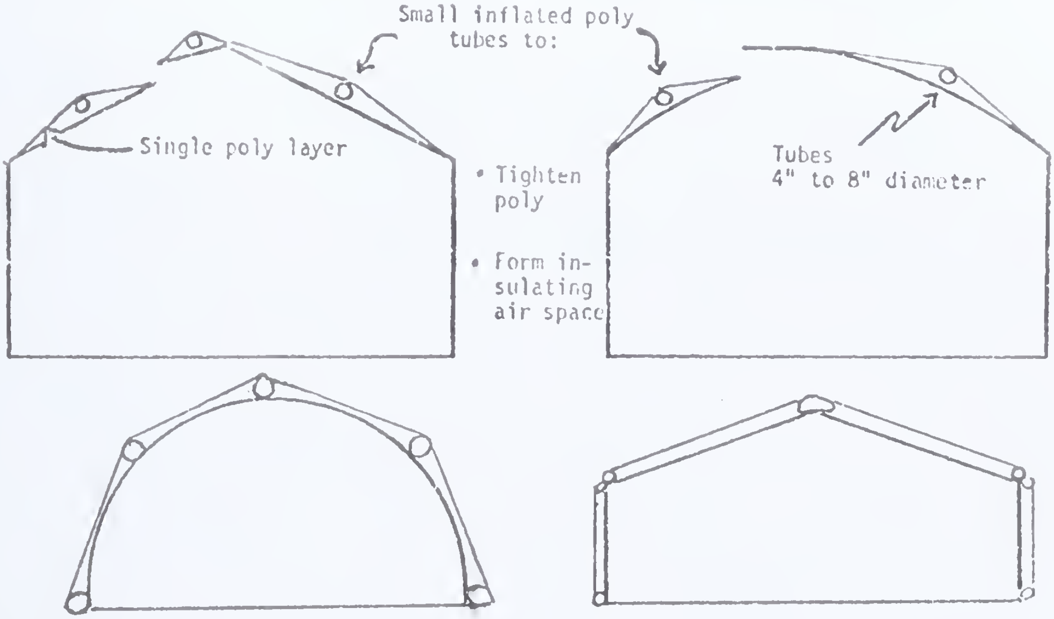
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A NEW IDEA FOR GREENHOUSE INSULATION

by Clive Schaupmeyer
Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks

We've expressed concern about the Ohio method of energy conservation using a double inflated layer of polyethylene over an existing glass greehouse. We think it will cut out too much light. But here is an interesting if untried alternative from Cornell University

Add a single layer of poly, supported by small inflated, non-perforated poly tubes over the top of an existing fiberglass or glass greenhouse. Why use poly tubes? Because when they are inflated they will tighten the poly and form an insulating air space between it and the glass or fiberglass roof.



The above type of installation should be adaptable to any of our homemade and/or commercially-designed greenhouses and can be used for the end walls as well as for the roof. The potential energy saving varies between 25 and 35 per cent.

January 5, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SURFACE RIGHTS, ESTATE PLANNING AND BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT MEETINGS

The district extension offices of Sedgewick, Coronation and Stettler have organized a series of informative meetings dealing with surface rights, estate planning and business arrangements. The meetings will be held in each district on a different date so that more people can attend. Following is a schedule of the meetings:

Meeting	Date	Location
Surface Rights	January 13	Forestburg – Town and Country Centre
	January 14	Coronation – Provincial Building
	January 15	Stettler – Provincial Building
Estate Planning	January 20	Killam – Legion Hall
	January 21	Castor – Community Hall
	January 23	Stettler – Provincial Building
Business Arrangements	January 27	Killam – Legion Hall
	January 28	Consort – Recreation Centre
	January 29	Stettler – Provincial Building

Registration for each meeting will take place at 9.30 a.m. and coffee will be served. All the meetings will start at 10 a.m.

Following is a brief outline of the meetings.

Surface Rights:
- surface rights legislation
- negotiating a surface rights agreement
- mineral rights
- solving disputes
- reviewing agreements

- (cont'd) -

Surface Rights, Estate Planning and Business Arrangement Meetings (cont'd)

Estate Planning:

- RRSP
- Income averaging annuity contracts
- transferring your estate
- preparation of a will
- tax implications
- land law

Business Arrangements:

- types and establishments
- advantages and disadvantages
- operation and dissolution
- custom and lease arrangements

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January 5, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA TREE PRUNING COURSES

You had better get your application in as soon as possible if you would like to attend one of Alberta Agriculture's popular annual tree pruning courses.

Two of these two-day courses will take place simultaneously at Brooks and Oliver (near Edmonton) on March 3 and 4. The third will be held at Fairview on March 10 and 11. Attendance at each courses is limited to 30. However, if any of the courses are oversubscribed, as has been the case over the last three years, an attempt will be made to accommodate the extra people in another course. It will be held at any of the three locations immediately following the scheduled course.

Although the courses are designed for people whose jobs involve trees, and who are self-employed in this type of work, they are open to anybody interested in tree maintenance and beautification. A total of 166 people attended last year's courses, and there are already more than 50 preregistration applicants for this year's courses.

Each course covers specific pruning techniques recommended for shade, ornamental and fruit trees and is arranged in such a way that participants have ample opportunity to practise what they learn in the classroom. The courses will also cover insect and disease control as they relate to pruning; tree structural growth; tree and shrub hardiness and tree varieties that are recommended for Alberta.

The deadline for applications for any of the courses in March 1. Application forms can be obtained from the Provincial Tree Nursery, R.R. 6, Edmonton, T5B 4K3. (Telephone: 973 3351) or from the Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks, TOJ OJO. (Telephone:362 3391).

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January 5, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE VETERINARIAN APPOINTED

Dr. M.W. Stone, head of the epidemiology section of Alberta Agriculture's animal health division, has announced the appointment of Dr. Neil Palechek to the position of cattle veterinarian with the preventive medicine branch.

Dr. Palechek will be working on extension programs with both beef and dairy cattlemen and veterinarians as well as conducting indepth investigations into disease problems He will also be responsible for developing preventive veterinary medicine programs.

Dr. Palechek graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1966 and obtained his D.V.M. from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan in 1970.

Following graduation from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, he was associated with the Barrhead Veterinary Clinic for 18 months after which he set up his own practice in Wetaskiwin. He joined the Edmonton office of the federal food production and inspection branch in 1979 and remained in that position until his present appointment.

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COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

	1981
Western Canadian Economic Conference on the Food Industry Calgary, Alberta	January 6 - 7
Palliser Wheat Growers Association — Annual Meeting and Convention Hotel Saskatchewan Regina, Saskatchewan	January 6 - 8
Alberta Pork Seminar Banff Centre Banff, Alberta	January 7 - 9
Western Farm Management Extension Committee San Francisco, U.S.A.	January 7 - 9
Unifarm Annual Convention Macdonald Hotel Edmonton, Alberta	January 12 - 16
American Beekeeping Federation 1981 National Convention Seattle, U.S.A	January 20 - 23
1981 Agribusiness Marketing Management Course Guelph, Ontario	January 20 - 23
Western Agricultural Conference Regina, Saskatchewan	January 22 - 23
The Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board Port-O-Call Inn Calgary, Alberta	January 27 - 28
Alberta Rapeseed Growers' Association — Annual Meeting Macdonald Hotel Edmonton, Alberta	January 29 - 30
Alberta Dairymen's Association — Annual Convention Palliser Hotel Calgary, Alberta	February 2 - 4
Government Relations and Results Seminar Red Deer, Alberta	February 2 - 4
Canadian Charolais Association — Annual Meeting Bessborough Hotel Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	February 5 - 7

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Agricultural Service Boards Provincial Conference Lethbridge Lodge Hotel Lethbridge, Alberta	February 9 - 12
Canadian Federation of Agriculture — Annual Meeting Skyline Hotel Ottawa, Ontario	February 10 - 12
30th Annual Alberta Poultry Industry Conference Stampeder Inn 3828 Macleod Trail Calgary, Alberta	February 23 - 25
Pesticide Applicators Course Olds College Olds, Alberta	February 23 - 27
Alberta Soil Science Workshop Agricultural Land Degradation Terrace Inn Edmonton, Alberta	February 24 - 25
Calgary Bull Show and Sale 1981 Calgary Stampede Exhibition Grounds Calgary, Alberta	March 1 - 4
1981 Agribusiness Marketing Management Course Guelph, Ontario	March 1 - 4
Canadian Horticultural Council Ottawa, Ontario	March 1 - 4
Alberta Nutrition Week Alberta	March 1 - 7
Canadian Agricultural Commodity Conference Holiday Inn Towers London, Ontario	March 2 - 3
Canadian Cattlemen's Association — Annual Meeting Inn of the Provinces Ottawa, Ontario	March 4 - 6
9th International Course on Dairy Cattle Husbandry Wageningen, Netherlands	March 10 - 12
Alberta Polled Hereford - Annual Show and Sale Alberta Hereford Centre Innisfail, Alberta	March 14

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

11th International Council on Plant Breeding
Wageningen, Netherlands . . . . March 17 - 26

Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit, 1981
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . March 22 - 25

Edmonton Northlands Stock Show and Sale
Edmonton Northlands Sales Pavilion
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . March 22 - 28

Recent Advances in Fruit Science and Technology
The British Council
Course 061
Wye and East Malling
Kent, England . . . . March 29 - April 10

Alberta Home Economics Conference
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . April 10 - 11

Agricultural Education and Extension Outlook Conference
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . June 10 - 12

29th International Course on Rural Extension
Wageningen, Netherlands . . . . June 28 - July 25

Canadian Home Economics Association Conference
Toronto, Ontario . . . . July 6 - 9

Klondike Days
Edmonton Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . July 16 - 25

10th International Course on Plant Protection
Wageningen, Netherlands . . . . July 20 - October 30

11th International Course on Vegetable Growing
Wageningen, Netherlands . . . . August 11

Canadian Agricultural Extension Council
The Lodge Motel
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . September 12 - 15

Western Nutrition Conference and Feed Industry Conference
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . September 14 - 18

Update '81
Jasper Park Lodge
Jasper, Alberta . . . . October 5 - 9

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Canadian Bankers' Association 9th Agricultural Credit Conference London, Ontario	October 26 - 28
Women of Unifarm Convention Capri, Red Deer	November 4 - 5
Edmonton Northlands Farmfair '81 Edmonton Northlands Sales Pavilion and Sportex Edmonton, Alberta	November 5 - 16
The Seed Potato Growers Association of Alberta Lethbridge Lodge Hotel Lethbridge, Alberta	November 18
Alberta Potato Growers Association Lethbridge Lodge Hotel Lethbridge, Alberta	November 19
Alberta Potato Commission Lethbridge Lodge Hotel Lethbridge, Alberta	November 20

1982

Unifarm Annual Convention Macdonald Hotel Edmonton, Alberta	January 11 - 15
Alberta Dairymen's Association – Annual Convention Macdonald Hotel Edmonton, Alberta	January 31 - February 2
Canadian Home Economics Association Conference Edmonton, Alberta	July 4 - 9
World Arabian Horse Organization – Annual Convention Calgary, Alberta	August
Agricultural Business Management 1 Goldeye Centre Alberta	November 15 - 17

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January 12, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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January 12, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EFFECT OF BREED ON THE INCIDENCE OF CALF SCOURS

It appears that environmental conditions and management practices have a much greater influence on calf scours than the breed of cattle involved.

Because calf scours are relatively prevalent in many parts of Western Canada, and because they cause great economic losses, scientists from the University of Alberta's Department of Animal Science decided to compare Hereford, beef synthetic, dairy synthetic and crossbred cattle to see if there was any difference in their susceptibility to calf scours under range conditions. There are known to be some examples of genetic differences in resistance and susceptibility to specific diseases in large animals. The scientists also examined the influence of age of dam and the sex of the calf on the incidence of calf scours.

The following table shows the relative frequency of calf scours in 2,111 calves from the four breed groups in six different years.

	Year						
	74	*75*	*76*	*77*	*78*	*79*	*Average*
Breed group							
Hereford	18.2 %	23.2 %	7.5 %	31.2 %	10.9 %	15.5 %	18.5 %
Beef Synthetic	24.6	25.9	13.4	24.3	13.8	17.8	19.7
Dairy Synthetic	16.1	28.1	13.2	45.2	7.7	25.9	23.4
Crossbred	14.0	17.9	2.4	27.7	11.1	9.3	14.4
No. of Animals	303	344	322	367	378	397	2111

Since the frequency of calf scours among the four breed groups was much smaller than the difference in incidence between years, the scientists concluded that there was very little genetic difference in the resistance to calf scours among the four breed groups. They believe this was probably because resistance or susceptibility to calf scours is primarily influenced by changes in environment. On the average, however, the crossbred calves had the lowest incidence of scours of the four groups. The other three groups were quite similar in this respect.

- (cont'd) -

Effect Of Breed On The Incidence Of Calf Scours (cont'd)

While it is not possible to single out the exact causes of the yearly variations which ranged from a low of about 9 per cent to a high of about 35 per cent, environmental factors such as climatic conditions and managerial practices were undoubtedly among the major causes.

Because calving difficulties usually result in weaker and less viable calves, which have less resistance to pathogenic organisms than calves born normally, calving difficulties may be considered an important predisposing factor. Hence all genetic and environmental factors that affect the incidence of calving difficulties could indirectly influence the incidence of scours.

The table below shows the incidence of scours by breed and age of dam.

	Age of Dam			
	2 years		*3 plus years*	
Breed	*No. of Calves*	*Infected Calves %*	*No. of Calves*	*Infected Calves %*
Hereford	131	43.5	285	7.0
Beef Synthetic	272	40.1	591	10.3
Dairy Synthetic	64	51.6	176	13.1
Crossbred	163	41.7	429	4.3
Total	630	42.2	1481	8.3

According to the scientists, the main cause of the higher incidence of scours in calves from first-calf heifers was the higher proportion of calving difficulties experienced in this group. Another factor could be that first-calf heifers have not been exposed to the pathogenic organisms that cause scours long enough to build up an immunity to pass on to their offspring. Still another factor could be that the first-calf heifers were calved in a confined area so that they could be more closely watched. The confined area would be more prone to the build up of infection than a pasture which was where the older cows were calved.

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Effect Of Breed On The Incidence Of Calf Scours (cont'd)

The incidence of scours among male and female calves was 19.8 per cent and 17.1 per cent respectively. The slightly higher incidence in the males could be explained by the fact that they are usually heavier than females when they are born, and, therefore, more likely to be involved in a difficult birth.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VITAMIN A REDUCES PARASITES IN SHEEP

Livestock on diets containing adequate vitamin A have fewer harmful parasites, according to studies at Agriculture Canada's research station in Lethbridge.

The studies show that sheep on a vitamin-supplemented diet appear to have a greater immunity to parasites called sheep keds than sheep on diets containing no vitamin A supplement. The relationship between the sheep's immune system and the build-up of resistance to keds is now being studied.

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January 12, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HALF PRICE LOANS – FACT OR FICTION?

by Merle Good
Financial Management, Alberta Agriculture

Financing at half price is, of course, attractive after last spring's and this fall's runup in interest rates. Contrary to your first reaction, it is possible to obtain some of your financing at close to one-half of the normal interest rate, providing you meet the rules. The proposal is called the Small Business Development Bond (SBDB) Program.

To be eligible for the SBDB Program, the borrower must be a Canadian controlled, private corporation that qualifies for the small business tax rate. This means that a private individual is not eligible for this program.

What are Small Business Development Bonds?

They are a temporary tax measure that will reduce the interest costs to qualifying corporations by enabling them to obtain after-tax financing from corporate lending institutions. The interest payments are simply treated as special non-taxable dividends in both the borrower's and the lender's hands. In other words, the interest payments will not be taxable to the corporate lender and cannot be written off as a deductible expense by the borrower.

Why are banks willing to reduce their interest rates?

Interest received on loans by lenders is normally treated as regular income, with the result that financial institutions are then faced with paying income tax of about 50¢ on the dollar. Since the earnings under the SBDB Program are tax free, the banks are able to lend funds at approximately one-half their normal rates and still have the same net earnings. The extra administration costs will, however, result in approximately 1.5 per cent being added to the reduced rate.

- (cont'd) -

Half Price Loans - Fact or Fiction? (cont'd)

What Projects are eligible?

Funds must be used for a new capital investment. These include investments in land, buildings and machinery. Transportation equipment, including farm trucks (except where the business is transporting for hire) will not qualify. While new machinery is eligible, property acquired for lease to others is not. Renovations to buildings are classified as a new capital investment and, thus, qualify.

Land is eligible providing it was purchased through an arm's length transaction. That means it cannot be purchased from a related person or company. Loans made to refinance existing liabilities are not eligible unless the loan is used to purchase qualifying assets in the prescribed time period.

What are some of the rules regarding the loan itself?

The principal amount of the loan must be between $10,000 and $500,000 with a minimum term of one year and a maximum term of five years. Financial institutions can still approve a loan for a longer amortization period (depending on the asset), but the special dividend treatment will be in effect for only five years. In addition, the property must have been acquired after December 11, 1979, and before March 31, 1981.

A corporation or group of corporations are allowed to have only one qualifying loan. In addition, both the borrower and the lender must file a specific election jointly within 90 days, which indicates that the loan qualifies and that the interest will be treated as a special non-taxable dividend.

Has the legislation been passed by parliament yet?

The original deadline for the program was December 31, 1980, but this has now been extended to March 31, 1981. The extension is the result of the government having failed to pass either the April 21, 1980, mini-budget or the October 28, 1980,

- (cont'd) -

Half Price Loans — Fact or Fiction? (cont'd)

budget which would have made this legislation law. However, indications are that both budgets will be passed shortly. In the meantime, lending officials are arranging loans at the reduced rates. If by some chance the act is not passed, the borrower will then have to make up the difference in interest rates.

What effect does the reduced interest rate offered by the SBDB Program have?

To discover the benefit offered by this program, analyze the following table and assume a prime rate of 17 per cent and that your normal borrowing rate is prime plus 2 per cent.

A.	Normal Interest Rate Loan		
	Prime 17% + 2%	19%	
	Less 20% tax	3.8%	
	Effective after tax cost		15.2%
B.	SBDB Loan		
	Prime 17% + 2% = $\frac{19\%}{2}$ + 1½% = 11%		
	Less 20% tax	nil	
	Effective after tax cost		11%
C.	Saving (the difference in the two rates)		4.2%

Note: The rate is floating; not fixed. Many of the institutions are offering the rate on SBDB loans at your regular borrowing rate (Prime + ____) divided by 2 and adding 1.5 per cent.

Would it be worthwhile for me to consider using this program?

An obvious situation where it would be worthwhile would be an expanding company with a large enough level of expenses to offset revenue, resulting in no taxable income. The loss of deductibility of the interest payments would not be a big problem and the savings in cash flow would be more important. Another possible situation would

- (cont'd) -

Half Price Loans -- Fact or Fiction? (cont'd)

be the purchase of depreciable assets eligible for the investment tax credit. The reduced tax from the investment tax credit and a possible 30 per cent capital cost allowance deduction would not only offset the loss of deductibility of the lower interest payment but also slightly increase the farm's net cash position.

In conclusion, remember there are plus and minus features to this program. We recommend that you consult your accountant and lender regarding the applicability of the SBDB Program to your business.

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January 12, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESLAUGHTER STRESS AND MEAT QUALITY

The incidence of dark cutting meat and pale, soft exudative meat from meat producing animals can be considerably reduced by the following approach, suggested by Dr. J. R. Thompson of the University of Alberta's Department of Animal Science.

Keep stress factors to a minimum while animals are being transported from the farm to the packing plant killing floor. This can be done by reducing handling as much as possible and by reducing the distance the animals have to walk on the farm and at the packing plant (i.e. minimize muscle exercise). Do not use an electric prodder or a whip, and whenever possible avoid mixing animals from different pens and different farms. Also, avoid overcrowding, and transport the animals during the coolest part of the day in hot weather and on a warm day in the winter. Minimize as much as possible the length of time the animals will be in transit from the farm to the killing floor of the packing plant, and the length of time they will be held at the packing plant.

According to Dr. Thompson, stress factors are cumulative. An animal may not react adversely to being handled, but it may react adversely if other stressful situations are added. Even animals which are not susceptible to stress will respond adversely if they are subjected to enough stress factors. "Animals which react negatively to stress not only have a tendency to produce poor quality meat, but they also have a much higher mortality rate both on the farm and during transit to the packing plant," Dr. Thompson says.

He points out that individual animals vary considerably in their reaction to stressful situations. In the case of cattle, for example, a steer is less susceptible to stress than a heifer and a heifer is less susceptible to stress than a bull. Many people consider double-muscled cattle to be somewhat more prone to stress than other beef animals, and a hog suffering from porcine stress syndrome is one of the most stress-susceptible animals that has been studied. In addition, a specific animal can vary from one day to another in its reaction to stress.

- (cont'd) -

Preslaughter Stress and Meat Quality (cont'd)

The avoidance of using so-called stress-susceptible animals for breeding stock is another way of reducing this problem in cattle and hogs. Dr. Thompson says stress-susceptible pigs can be recognized by the following signs:

- Muscle tremors (tail twitching etc.)
- Erythema –– the appearance of red blotches on the skin when the animal is handled.
- Chronic stress signs such as apparent overall leg weakness.
- Hyperthermia –– elevated rectal temperature when handled.
- Extreme muscularity. Since stress-susceptible pigs often have this characteristic, extremely muscular animals should be carefully examined before being placed in the breeding herd.

Dr. Thompson reports that a stress-susceptible animal tends to accumulate a large amount of lactic acid in its muscles when it is stressed, and that this characteristic is related to poorer than normal circulation in the musculature as well as to the excessive production of lactic acid. The accumulation of the lactic acid causes some of the muscle cells to rupture and release their contents into the blood stream. The result is an accumulation of molecules in the blood that are unique to muscles, and measurement of this accumulation after an animal has been stressed could provide a test for stress-susceptibility. One such test involving analysis of the concentration of the muscle enzyme CPK is now being used commercially.

Although, there is still no way of readily determining whether an animal is susceptible to stress, Dr. Thompson is hopeful that rapid, accurate tests for this purpose will be developed in the near future.

January 12, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1980 PLANT DISEASE SITUATION

Two new diseases were reported in Alberta in 1980, according to Dr. Jack Horricks, plant pathologist with Alberta Agriculture. They were club root, a disease of crucifers and white rot, a disease of onions. Club root could pose a threat to rape crops and both diseases are fairly destructive. Fortunately, the infestations were found in garden-plot sized areas and action is already underway to limit or destroy them.

Verticillium wilt was found in five alfalfa fields last year out of 265 that were surveyed. This disease is quite destructive in the Pacific Northwest of the United States and in British Columbia where 43 per cent of the alfalfa fields examined in 1980 were found to have the disease. There are very few cases of verticillium wilt in the rest of Canada. However, federal regulations require alfalfa seed that is sold, except that sold for food, to be treated with Thiram 320 FW.

Although the virulent strain of black leg has spread throughout Saskatchewan, it still has not been found in Alberta rape fields. A rape cultivar that is resistant to black leg is expected to be available in about three years. In the meantime, vigilance regarding source of seed is strongly recommended as is seed treatment.

Last year saw a higher than normal incidence of foliage diseases in cereal crops. These included the smut diseases and root rot. Severe cases of barley yellow dwarf were reported on winter wheat last fall, which could predispose this crop to winterkilling.

Neither Dutch elm diseases nor its beetle vectors have been found in Alberta yet, but the disease is present in Montana as well as in Manitoba. Precautionary measures such as

- (cont'd) -

1980 Plant Disease Situation (cont'd)

monitoring for elm bark beetles, checking elm trees that show suspicious signs and eliminating the importation of elm firewood and other elm wood that contains bark are strongly recommended.

The incidence of bacterial ring rot in Alberta potatoes increased last year, especially in the southern part of the province. Most of the problems have been traced to contaminated seed, which has reinforced concern about reliable imported and Alberta certified seed.

January 12, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1980 ANIMAL PEST SITUATION

The rabies outbreak in skunks in the Foremost-Warner area, which occurred at the end of 1979 and continued during 1980 represented the most serious rabies threat in Alberta since the early 1970's, says Cliff Barrett, animal pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

He reports that approximately 57 rabid skunks and one rabid cat were removed from the area last year, and that the outside perimeter of the area is now believed to have been defined. He believes that further skunk monitoring and intensive depopulation during the winter will control the outbreak. The good news is that Alberta's eastern border buffer zone has kept rabies originating in Saskatchewan from entering Alberta for three years now, in spite of the fairly heavy incidence in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Barrett also reports that rat infestations decreased in Alberta last year, particularly in the Lloydminster area and in the County of Vermilion River. However, he advises sharp surveillence in those areas this year in view of the increase in oil and industrial activity. "Rats move and thrive with people," he says.

Coyotes continued to be a controversial topic in 1980. Population estimates varied from near extinction to reports of large packs, but Alberta Agriculture staff observations indicate a moderate to high population, except in the short grass Prairie region and in the Peace River block. According to Mr. Barrett, the government is evaluating the effect of restricting hunting in view of high pelt prices and trespassing complaints. He says coyote damage complaints have remained about the same for several years now, but that compensation payments have gone up as a result of higher livestock prices.

- (cont'd) -

1980 Animal Pest Situation (cont'd)

Bear damage to beeyards in the Peace River region increased last year, and more compensation claims were received than in 1979. However, Mr. Barrett says electric fences continued to provide effective protection for beeyards in spite of the increase in the number of bear attacks.

The beaver flood control program worked well last year as municipal and fish and wildlife staff and part-time trappers gained experience with it. Beaver drain culverts dealt effectively with about half the problems, especially when at least one metre of water remained in the beaver pond.

Mr. Barrett reports that several municipalities have employed, or are considering employing, full-time pest control officers to handle beaver, coyote and other animal pest problems.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

Lorne Ordze, chairman of the board of directors of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), is pleased to announce that the following incentive programs have been renewed and that they will continue in effect until December 31, 1981.

- Dairy Development Program
- Native Range Improvement Program
- Sheep Producers' Incentive Program

Existing guidelines will continue to apply to the programs because they have all been renewed without any changes.

The Vegetable Producers' Loan Program, which was to have expired on November 30, 1980, has also been reviewed and will continue in effect until March 31, 1981. It is anticipated that some changes will be made prior to the new expiry date.

For further information on any of the programs, the conditions under which you may be eligible for an incentive rebate and how to apply for an incentive rebate, contact any one of ADC's district officers or your local district agriculturist.

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January 12, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEDDING PLANT COURSE

The fifth annual bedding plant course will be held at Olds College on January 19 and 20.

The topics on this year's agenda are Seeding and Transplanting; Aeration Porosity of Greenhouse Media; Vegetable Bedding Plants; What to Feed and How to Feed; Water Quality; Diseases, Insects and Their Control; How to Grow and Sell Bedding Plants; New Annual Flower Selections; Greenhouse Design to Suit Western Conditions; Sales Builders; Pricing for Profit; and Greenhouse Energy Conservation. There will also be a question period and product displays. The staff of a number of horticultural firms will be available for consultation throughout the course.

Registration is required in advance of the course, and the fee is $42, which does not cover accommodation or meals. There is no accommodation available in the college residence but meals can be obtained in the cafetaria.

Registration cheques should be made payable to Olds College and sent to the Department of Continuing Education, Olds College, Olds, TOM 1P0.

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January 12, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIRECTOR OF LAND USE ACTIVITIES APPOINTED

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Dallas Schmidt, has announced the appointment of Brian Colgan to the position of director of land use activities with Alberta Agriculture.

The position was created as a result of the demand for the province's land resources by the rapidly growing non-agricultural sector of the economy. This rapid growth, which is the result of Alberta's healthy economy, has been responsible over the past few years for an increase in population and an increasingly aggressive demand for both commercial and residential property. Mr. Colgan's duties will include making sure that agriculture's needs are taken into account when land use decisions are being made.

Raised on a mixed farm in the Olds area and a 1968 agricultural graduate of the University of Alberta, Mr. Colgan brings to his new position eight years of field experience as a district agriculturist in the County of Leduc. He spent a large part of his last three years at Leduc representing Alberta Agriculture on the Edmonton Regional Planning Commission and working with municipalities involved in regional planning.

January 12, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTMENTS

The director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division, John G. Calpas, has announced the following district agriculturist appointments.

Jack Hazelwood has been appointed senior district agriculturist at Three Hills where he was previously district agriculturist. In his new position, he will have supervisory responsibilities for the Three Hills, Airdrie and Olds offices.

Mr. Hazelwood is a native of Alberta and a graduate of the University of Alberta where he obtained a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1970. Prior to joining Alberta Agriculture in 1977 as district agriculturist at Athabasca, he spent five years with the Government of British Columbia as regional land manager at Nelson. He was appointed district agriculturist at Three Hills in 1978.

Dale Seward has been appointed co-district agriculturist at Fairview. Prior to his present appointment he was district agriculturist at Eaglesham.

Mr. Seward comes from southern Manitoba and is a graduate of the University of Manitoba. He joined Alberta Agriculture as a farm management technician in 1973, and, after several years of employment as summer assistant district agriculturist in the Peace River region, he enrolled in the University of Manitoba. He graduated in 1978 with a B.Sc. (agriculture) and took his assistant district agriculturist training at Spirit River. He was appointed district agriculturist at Eaglesham in the summer of 1979.

Tennis Marx has been appointed co-district agriculturist at Lamont. She is a native of the Rocky Mountain House area and graduated from the University of Alberta in 1979 with a B.Sc. (agriculture). Between university semesters she held such jobs as veterinarian assistant in Olds and technician with the Pembina Forage Association. She took her district agriculturist training at Olds in the fall of 1979.

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District Agriculturist Appointments (cont'd)

Stan Dereniwski has been appointed co-district agriculturist at Taber. He comes from Saskatchewan and graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1979 with a B.Sc. (agriculture). Between semester he held positions with the Dairy Producers Co-operative in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture and Chipman Chemicals Inc. in Winnipeg. He joined Alberta Agriculture in February, 1980, as district agriculturist-in-training at Falher where he remained until his present appointment.

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January 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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January 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRANDE CACHE TO GET A SAWMILL

British Columbia Forest Products Ltd is going to build an 80 million board-foot sawmill 20 km east of Grande Cache for an estimated cost of $43,878,000.

The offer of a $3,715,440 incentive grant by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion was a major factor in the firm's decision to build a new plant at Grande Cache. This western Alberta community, which in the past has depended upon the coal industry for its economic base, will now have a more diversified and balanced economy.

Most of the workers for the expected 168 jobs in the mill and the 192 jobs in the woodlands operations will be recruited locally and will include people of Native ancestory. British Columbia Forest Products Ltd plans to implement a training program to help new employees gain the required skills.

Roy Whittle, executive vice president of the firm, stated that establishment of this sawmill, phase one of a total three phase plan, will contribute to the industrial development of Western Canada and further utilize one of Alberta's abundant renewable sources.

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January 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LATE WINTER FEED FOR BEEF COWS

by Ron Weisenburger
Head, Animal Nutrition, Alberta Agriculture

With the calving season fast approaching, beef producers are starting the most tical time of the year for feeding their cows.

Proper feeding from now until the breeding season is essential for the producti of healthy, vigorous calves at birth and for ensuring that the cows are ready for rebreeding the start of the breeding season. Underfeeding, especially between calving and breeding, is of the most common causes of the delayed onset of estrus and of poor conception rates. It very costly because it results in lower calf numbers and weaning weights in the following y calf crop.

The amount of nutrients supplied to beef cows during their last six weeks of p nancy should be increased by about 15 per cent compared with the amount required to maintain them during early and mid-winter. After calving, a cow whose milk production is average should receive about 35 per cent more energy than she received in mid-winter. Cov which produce a large volume of milk will require at least 50 per cent more energy than t required in mid-winter. A cow's need for other nutrients like protein and phosphorous ma more than double after she calves.

The following are possible rations that will meet the energy and protein requir ments of a 1100-pound cow in late pregnancy. The rations do not make allowances for was age, and additional feed will be required in very cold weather.

1. 18 pounds good quality oat or barley straw
   5 pounds grain
   3/4 pound 32% protein supplement

- (cont'd) -

Late Winter Feed For Beef Cows (cont'd)

2. 14 pounds good quality oat or barley straw
   11 pounds average quality legume-grass hay
3. 25 pounds average quality grass hay
4. 23 pounds average quality legume-grass hay
5. 55 pounds cereal silage (65% moisture)

If the quality of the hay is below average, the amount recommended above will have to be increased by 10 to 15 per cent. If the cows are reluctant to eat this amount of hay, it should be supplemented with grain or a better quality hay should be fed.

All the above rations, except for No.1, require additional vitamin A and all, including No.1 should be supplemented with a mineral supplement containing at least 14 per cent phosphorous and an equal amount of calcium on a free-choice basis. Cattle on the above rations should also receive free-choice either trace mineral salt or cobalt-iodized salt.

The following are possible after-calving rations for an average milking cow that weighs 1100 pounds.

1. 27 pounds average quality legume-grass hay
2. 25 pounds average quality alfalfa-hay
3. 14 pounds good quality oat or barley straw
   8 3/4 pounds grain
   1 3/4 pounds 32% protein supplement
4. 10 pounds good quality oat or barley straw
   17 pounds average quality alfalfa
5. 65 pounds cereal silage (65% moisture)

The following are possible after-calving rations for a superior milking cow that weighs 1100 pounds.

1. 30 pounds average quality alfalfa hay
2. 20 pounds average quality legume-grass hay
   8 pounds grain

- (cont'd) -

Late Winter Feed For Beef Cows (cont'd)

3. 75 pounds cereal silage (65% moisture)
4. 20 pounds average quality grass hay
   8 pounds grain
   1 pound 32% protein supplement

Feed containing at least the amount of a 32 per cent protein supplement indicated in the above rations should provide enough vitamin A to meet a cow's requirements, but vitamin A should be provided to cows being fed the other rations. Either trace-mineral salt or cobalt-iodized salt should be fed free-choice in all cases.

A cow's requirements for supplemental minerals, especially phosphorous, increases dramatically after calving, and she will need to eat between two and five ounces of a mineral supplement that contains 18 per cent phosphorous per day to meet these requirements. The higher level will be required by cows that are producing a larger volume of milk that the average. Because an adequate level of phosphorous is so essential for good reproductive performance, it is important to make sure that it is consumed. However, since it is unlikely that cows will eat this amount on a free-choice basis, it should be force fed. This can be done by either mixing it in with the grain, by using it as a top dressing on silage or by any other methoc that fits into the management practices of the farm.

January 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONITORING FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES

by J.B. Gurba
Head, Crop Protection & Pest Control Branch, Alberta Agriculture

There has been much bad news lately about pesticides involving suspicions, reviews, restrictions and bans. However, there is some good news for the Canadian farmer and the consumer.

The review, evaluation and surveillance of pesticides by federal, provincial, municipal and industrial agencies is a continuous process. One of the best safeguards is the monitoring of residues in food, feed, fish and wildlife, air, water and other areas of the environment. Alberta Agriculture regularly samples and analyzes milk and other important food groups. In fact, between 800 and 1200 random and suspected samples are taken each year and analyzed for pesticide and other chemical residues by the Food Laboratory. Any cases showing levels approaching or exceeding federal health tolerances are followed up to determine the problem and to eliminate it.

An internal committee known as the Safe Food Committee sets the annual monitoring schedule and coordinates operations, including follow-up on problem cases, with other provincial and federal agencies such as health, wildlife and environment. Each year several food areas (milk products, cereals, eggs, meats, vegetables, etc.) are selected for special scrutiny. During the fall of 1980, for example, 75 samples of six vegetables (potatoes, carrots, beets, turnips, parsnips and onions) were taken during a survey of small and large commercial farms in the Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, Brooks and Lethbridge areas.

Analyses for organochlorine and organophosphate pesticide residues showed that levels were well below the tolerances established by the federal Health Protection Branch.

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Monitoring For Pesticide Residues (cont'd)

Modern analytical equipment and experienced analysts can now measure accurately to parts per billion (ppb) or to levels 1,000 times less than the parts per million (ppm) of a few years ago. One ppm is equal to one drop in an 8,000 gallon tank car and one ppb is equal to one drop in a 1,000-tank car train. These minute amounts are hard to imagine.

Of the [illegible] vegetable samples, [illegible] analyzed, 56 showed no detectable level of any pesticide. No herbicides were detected; one fungicide, HCB, was found in two samples and seven insecticides were found in 14 samples. The range of detected levels were:

1. HCB fungicide — trace to one ppb
2. Organophosphate insecticide diazinon — 3 to 5 ppb
3. Organochlorine insecticides : BHC — trace; lindane — trace to 5 ppb; DDT — trace to 8 ppb; dieldrin — trace to 12 ppb; heptachlor — trace to 5 ppb; chlordane — 3 to 39 ppb
4. Five vegetable samples showed trace amounts only or below the level of accurate measurement at one ppb.

What is the significance of these pesticide levels? To control pests, levels of one ounce to one pound of pesticide are normally applied per acre or in the range of 30 to 500 ppm. The optimum rate to control the pest and the necessary interval to harvest are recommended. Ideally, the residues should be zero (non-detectable), but, in practical terms, the lowest level below the established tolerance is aimed at.

The persistent organochlorine insecticides which were widely used in the 1950's and 1960's have now been pretty well phased out. Today only chlordane is used for wireworm control in vegetables, and a low level of residue at harvest time is expected. DDT, which was phased out in the early 1970's, but was forecast to persist in the field, has disappeared except for trace amounts. Commonly used herbicides such as the phenoxys and

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Monitoring For Pesticide Residues (cont'd)

insecticides of the organophosphate or carbamate groups break down quite quickly into naturally occurring compounds.

Tolerances established for most vegetables by the federal Health Protection Branch range from 0.1 to 3 ppm (100 and 3000 ppb) depending upon the particular pesticide. All residues found in the 1980 survey were well below the levels allowed.

As consumers we should feel reassured by the fact that our food is being continuously monitored for its wholesomeness and its safety.

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January 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEEF COW FEEDING OPTIONS

by Keith Winchell
Alberta Agriculture, Fairview

There are two basic methods of feeding beef cows. One is to move the feed to cows and the other is to move the cows to the feed. Both have advantages and disadvantages.

Those systems which involve moving the cattle to the feed use the least amount of labor, but feed intake cannot be completely controlled. The only way of restricting intake is to limit the time that the cattle have access to the feed to specific periods of the day. However, wastage can be controlled quite effectively by putting a piece of electrified wire across the front of the forage or by using a movable gate. When the intake of the cattle is not to be limited, the wire or gate should be long enough to provide a space of 10, eight and six inches for the cows, yearlings and calves respectively. If their intake is to be controlled, 24 inches should be allowed for the cows, 20 inches for the yearlings and 16 inches for the calves or the herd should be divided into two or three groups and fed at different times.

Feeding systems that can be used for taking feed to the cattle include moving small bales to a fenceline feeder, moving large round bales or loose stacked hay to portable or stationary feeders or feeding the small or large bales or the loose hay in an open yard. Research carried out at Purdue University in the United States showed that the level of waste was more than 30 per cent when a four-day supply of large round bales was fed free-choice on the ground. The level was reduced to 11 per cent when a one-day supply was provided and to less than 5 per cent when large bales were fed in a well designed feeding rack. The main advantage of any system that involves taking feed to cattle is that their intake can be limited to the amount required for optimum performance.

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Beef Cow Feeding Options (cont'd)

If you conclude, as I do, that some type of feeder is required in most cases to keep waste to an acceptable level, then I suggest that you should ask yourself the following questions. "Do I consistently put up forage that has a protein content of higher than 10 per cent and that is readily eaten by my cows?" "Do I consistently have my forage analyzed and my rations formulated so that my cattle will receive only the amount of forage they require?" If the answer to either or both of these questions is "no", and if, as is often the case when wintering beef cows, the cows are given all the forage they will clean up, then I think that you should seriously consider saving labor by moving the cattle to the feed rather than the feed to the cattle.

January 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WARBLE GRUB VACCINE – A POSSIBILITY

Scientists at Agriculture Canada's research station at Lethbridge are working on a vaccine that will protect cattle against warble grubs.

The research carried out to date shows that cattle, including calves, can be protected from warble grubs with a vaccine that stimulates resistance to the grubs, and that this resistance would probably be permanent.

Entomological and serological research is now being directed, on the basis of experimental evidence, towards selecting, purifying and testing natural products that might be used for such a vaccine.

The experiments carried out so far have shown that calves are born with some degree of resistance to warbles, and that the body defences of the calves are stimulated in response to the size of the parasite burden. As the level of infestation increases, the survival rate of the grubs decreases. It was found, however, that when a standard dose of 100 newly hatched larvae were administered, most of the calves being tested permitted 73.5 per cent of the grubs to survive. A few calves that had been born with a higher than normal resistance allowed only 5.2 per cent of the grubs to survive.

The experiments also showed that the cattle with the most resistance had been previously infested, and that this resistance was in response to the previous infestation and had not developed because of such things as a thicker, older hide or more ability to avoid warble fly attacks.

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Warble Grub Vaccine – A Possibility (cont'd)

Under moderate infestation conditions (10-20 grubs), resistance became established only after three consecutive, annual infestations. After that the cattle killed off most of their grubs. However, when the first infestation was heavy (50-80 grubs), resistance was found to develop during the next infestation and to persist, and improve slightly, in subsequent reinfestations. It was also found that this resistance was maintained even when the cattle were not reinfested for three years.

January 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOME INSULATION GRANTS

If your house was built before 1961, you are eligible for a grant under the federal government's Canadian Home Insulation Program (CHIP).

Here is how the program works. If you do the insulating yourself, you are eligible for a grant that will cover 100 per cent of the insulating material you purchase to use in your attic, walls and floor or $350, whichever is the lesser. To qualify for the grant all the materials used must be approved by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

If you hire a licensed insulator to do the work, you are eligible for the above grant to cover the materials plus the cost of one-third of the required labor or $150, whichever is the lesser. This means that if you pay a licensed insulator $300 for his labor, you can claim $100. However, if you pay him $600, you can only claim $150. Therefore, the maximum grant you can receive if you hire somebody to do your insulating is $500. And it is important to remember that you will only be eligible for a grant under this part of the program if you hire a licensed insulator. If you are not sure whether the person you are planning to hire is licensed, be sure to check with Alberta Consumer and Corporate Affairs in Edmonton.

Another point to remember is that grants under CHIP are not tax deductible. They must be included in your income.

Further information can be obtained by telephoning 420-2460 in Edmonton or by writing to the Canadian Home Insulation Program, P.O. Box 3030, Postal Station A, Edmonton. Grant application forms can be obtained from the same address.

January 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KEEPING THE HEAT IN

"Keeping the Heat In" is the name of a very informative booklet on home insul tion. Prepared by Energy, Mines and Resources Canada, it contains detailed information on how you can determine your insulation requirements, and it is designed for both the experienced and inexperienced "do-it yourselfer".

The first step outlined in the booklet shows you how to determine the conditio of your house. This involves checking the kind and condition of the insulation and its thickness, as well as detecting signs of moisture problems and places where warm air losses are occurring. Weatherstripping and caulking and the installation of storm doors and windows may be necessary.

How Much Insulation?

The insulation requirements of houses over the years have been increased to hel minimize heat losses and to conserve energy. Specific minimum standards have been recommended for walls, ceilings and basements, but higher standards can be obtained if finances ar space permit. Ceilings should have an insulation value of R28, walls should have one of R12 and basement walls should have one of from R8 to R12, depending upon how much of the wall is above the ground.

What is an "R" value? An "R" value measures the insulation's resistance to hea transfer. Insulation materials are sold on the basis of their thermal resistance value ("R" value), and the higher their "R" value, the greater their resistance to heat transfer. Since different materials can have different thicknesses and still have the same "R" value, it is important when upgrading your insulation to first determine your "R" value requirements and the to decide on the type of insulation you will buy. Your choice will be influenced by such thir as cost, ease of installation, resistance of the material to fire and moisture and where it is to l used.

- (cont'd) -

Keeping the Heat In (cont'd)

If you are contemplating an energy efficient house, you will be looking at much higher "R" values than those mentioned above. For example, you would probably need R50 in the ceiling, R40 in the exterior walls and R30 in the basement walls. This type of renovation would not be possible without upgrading the vapor barrier, using additional insulation and weatherstripping and caulking poorly sealed areas. Newly built houses provide the greatest opportunity for incorporating energy conservation techniques like the use of double studded walls, vapor pans, air-to-air heat exchangers and insulated shutters. Site selection, window design and eave construction are also important considerations.

Where to Start?

When you have determined the condition of your house and its insulation requirements, you must decide which areas to start on. "Keeping the Heat In" contains a chart to help you with this decision. One area may require more insulation than another, but cost and ease of installation should be considered when deciding which area to do first.

Areas To Watch For

A recent report compiled by the National Research Council states that the exterior walls and the basement are responsible for 60 per cent of the heat loss in the average house. Heat is lost from electrical and plumbing installations and connections between the foundation and the floor. Windows and doors are apparently responsible for about 20 per cent of the heat loss, and the ceiling accounts for another 20 per cent.

How To Insulate

"Keeping the Heat In" explains with clear illustrations how to insulate ceilings, walls and basements, as well as such areas as crawl spaces, foundations, cold rooms, garages, etc.

Since energy costs will continue to rise, any effort that is made to minimize heat loss and fuel consumption should be regarded more as an investment than as an expense. It is

- (cont'd) -

Keeping the Heat In (cont'd)

estimated that fuel bills can be reduced in the average home by as much as 35 to 50 per cent or by about $200 per year. In addition to making your house more comfortable, insulating it should increase its resale value.

Copies of "Keeping the Heat In" Homedex 1713-1 can be obtained from your district agriculturist or from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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January 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A PORTRAIT OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURE

"Yesterday" is a pictorial history of agriculture in Alberta, which will appeal equally to those who remember the old days and to those who have only read or heard about them.

"Yesterday" was conceived, prepared and published by the Alberta Women's Institute Association. It contains approximately 450 pictures, chosen from thousands submitted from across the province, and, in each case, the scenes and people in the pictures are identified.

The value of this photographic collection has been enhanced by the careful way in which the pictures have been selected to illustrate the various phases in the history of agriculture in this province. The pictures illustrate this history all the way from the teepee rings found on some agricultural land right up to modern machinery.

The first section, entitled "The Treck" shows the arrival of the pioneers. The next section, "The Furrow", depicts breaking the sod, while "Farm Flair" illustrates the ingenious ways that Alberta farmers used to make their work more efficient and their lives more enjoyable. "Testing Times" shows the darker side of farm life in those early days, when disasters often tested a farmer's resourcefulness to its limit. "Neighbours" illustrates the wide range of tasks and pleasures that brought communities together. These are just a few of the pictorial sections contained in "Yesterday".

You can get a copy of "Yesterday" by contacting Sylvia McKindlay, Secretary, Alberta Women's Institute Association, 7205-101 Avenue, Edmonton, T6A OH9. Her telephone number is 469-1254.

January 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHOE BOX OR COMPUTER?

by Glen Werner
Senior District Agriculturist, Stettler

Were you satisfied with your record keeping system last year? Was the information your banker needed easy to find? Did your records provide the information you needed for tax planning this past November and December? If not, you may have made a New Year's resolution to change all that. But where do you start?

Well, there are a number of alternatives from which you can choose. No one system is best for everyone – each has its place. Choose the one that is best for you and your farm.

Let us look at the alternatives:

Farm record keeping falls into two categories: a manual system you do yourself, and an outside system, either done by someone else or computerized.

If you elect to do your own records there are a number of ways you can go about it. You can just stuff everything in a shoe box. It is better than nothing, but it does not provide much information or help during the year.

You may choose to do your records periodically and record things in an account book. This is an improvement. There are a good number of different books around. For example, you may use an ordinary scribbler or your accountant may have one he would like you to use. A popular book in business is a full ledger, double entry system. It can provide all the information and details you require.

If, on the other hand, record keeping is not your thing, and you cannot interest your spouse in doing it either, you may elect to have someone else do it for you. Tnere are

- (cont'd) -

Shoe Box or Computer (cont'd)

a number of good systems available — all for a fee of course! You may choose to let your accountant do it all, but he cannot perform miracles, and you will still have to provide him with the details. Furthermore, if you dump your shoe box of records on his desk, he will have to record them all at your expense!

Your accountant may work with you to provide a monthly statement of your records and affairs. This is a very useful and neat system. It costs some money, but both you and your accountant are involved, and both can benefit from it. Some banks also provide a record keeping system in conjunction with your cheques and bank accounts. This service is usually modestly priced and may be well suited to your type of farming operation. Check this one out with your bank. It too is connected to a computer system.

We have recently been assured that the Canfarm System will continue to provide record keeping services. This is an excellent system which can provide either basic records or a very detailed analysis of your farm. You decide how detailed you wish it to be. This is a computer based system and there is a fee.

Finally, there is the Cadillac system — your own mini computer. For most this system is much too expensive. However, if it meets your farm requirements and you can justify the cost — why not?

And remember, your accountant is an important key in the whole record keeping and analysis system of your farm. Use him and his advice — his fee is a good investment!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAPESEED MARKETING SEMINAR

The Alberta Rapeseed Growers Association is sponsoring a rapeseed marketing seminar which will be held in Morinville on Monday, February 2 at the Frontiersman Hotel.

The seminar is intended to give rapeseed producers a chance to gain information on various marketing options and the market outlook for their crop.

Some of the topics to be covered are overview of the world oilseed market, price determination, rapeseed outlook hedging, producer cars, marketing rapeseed direct to crushers, marketing rapeseed to elevator companies. The program will conclude with a question panel. Speakers participating in the seminar are knowledgeable specialists in the area of rapeseed marketing and include, Jack Giles, Canola Council of Canada; Les Lyster, Grains and Oilseeds Market Analyst, Alberta Agriculture; Dwayne Cauldwell, Regional Marketing Economist, Alberta Agriculture; Don McTaggart, Alberta Food Producers Ltd; Nels Nystrom, United Grain Growers.

The program will begin with registration at 9.30 a.m. Rapeseed producers planning on attending are asked to contact John Hladky, D.A. at Morinville or your local district agriculturist.

AGRI-NEWS

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January 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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hone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

January 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOUSE INFESTATIONS CAN CAUSE CATTLE DEATHS

Three cattle deaths were reported in south-central Alberta in early January from anaemia brought on by heavy infestations of lice.

Have you checked your cattle lately for signs of lice? In addition to anaemia, a high louse population can be responsible for stunted growth, reduced milk production and general unthriftiness. Animals that are anaemic can lose up to a third of their red blood cells, and any animal that has a heavy infestation of lice is susceptible to respiratory diseases.

Typical Symptoms of a Louse Infestation

Cattle which are heavily infested with lice can be recognized by their rough, patchy, dirty-looking coat and poor physical condition. If you examine the areas around the eyes and in the folds of the skin on the neck, you will see the slate-blue-colored adult lice which are about an eighth of an inch long. You will find that the heads of many of them are partly buried in the animal's skin. The cream-colored eggs or nits, which are attached to the hair, look like a string of beads. In very severe infestations, the animal's hair will be coated with blood from lice that have gorged themselves and then been crushed when their host scratched against something to relieve the irritation caused by the biting and sucking.

You should also check your herd for chronic or "carrier" cows. They are usually older animals which become infested with lice every year, and they are usually the source of the reinfestation for the entire herd. Also, if they are not deloused, they may abort their calves as a result of louse-induced anaemia.

Treatment

Dr. Ali Khan, livestock pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture, reports that there are 10 insecticides, available under different brand names, that will control lice on beef and dairy cattle

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Louse Infestations Can Cause Cattle Deaths (cont'd)

Those that can be used on beef cattle are Sevin, Coral, Ciodrin, Ruelene, Spotton, Malathion, Ronnel, Rotenone and Neguvon. Those that are recommended for lactating dairy cattle are Sevin, Ciodrin, Malathion and Rotenone.

Dr. Khan stresses that systemic insecticides should never be used on lactating dairy cows because the chemical will contaminate the milk, and that they should never be used on beef cattle that were not treated for warbles the previous fall. The use of a systemic insecticide during December, January and February on animals that have warbles could cause a serious host-parasite reaction because the grubs are often in the esophagus or spinal column during this period. However, it is alright to use a systemic insecticide on beef cattle that were treated for warbles in the fall.

Dr. Khan says that both systemic and non-systemic insecticides can be applied in a variety of ways, depending upon the product. These include the use of hand dusts, pour-ons, spottons, sprays and such self-treating devices as dustbags, oilers and scratch dusters.

You can get more information on controlling cattle lice from Dr. Ali Khan, Animal Industry Division, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8. (Telephone:427-9051) or by obtaining a copy of "Control of Cattle Lice" (FS 420/651-2). It is available from the district agriculturists and from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

January 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE CONSTRUCTION OF PIPELINES ON FARM LAND

If you are approached by a company that wants to build a pipeline across your farm here are some suggestions on the subject from Dr. J.A. Shields of Agriculture Canada's Land Resource Research Institute in Ottawa.

His first suggestion is that you find out the policy of the company on its construction practices, restoration and compensation allowances before you sign the final easement contract.

The company should be careful to conserve the topsoil and to avoid compaction. Dr. Shields recommends stripping and piling the topsoil and the subsoil separately. He says this practice will also avoid some of the topsoil compaction, which can be further reduced by asking the company to move its heavy machinery over the area where the trench will be dug rather than along the right of way. Much of the resulting compaction will then be eliminated when the trench is dig. It is also important that heavy vehicles travel over the field only when the soil is dry.

If you have any drainage tiles or plastic tube drains in the field, be sure to mark them. If sections of tile are cut, collapse or are displaced, you should ask the company to repair them.

Dr, Shields say rutting and compaction of the right-of-way along a pipeline trench can be reduced if the line is constructed during the winter, but frost penetration must be to a depth of at least 20 cm and uniform.

You should also make sure that the area where construction is to take place is defined. staked out and fenced to keep livestock away from the trench. A prompt clean-up

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The Construction Of Pipelines On Farm Land (cont'd)

after the work has been completed should be guaranteed.

Dr. Shields recommends deep chisel plowing on compaction areas and then discing them. When the topsoil has been removed, the subsoil should be chisel-plowed before it is replaced.

"Compensation for the landowner should not be finalized," says Dr. Shields, "until restoration is completed and the extent of crop yield reductions are assessed. This will take at least five years."

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RAPESEED MARKETING SEMINAR

The registration fee for the Rapeseed Marketing Seminar, scheduled to take place in Morinville on February 2, is $10!

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January 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR ALBERTA FARMERS

A revised edition of the publication entitled "Assistance Available for Alberta Farmers" contains summaries of five new financial assistance programs and the 28 existing programs, some of which have been up-dated. The summaries outline the purpose, terms and eligibility requirements for each program and tell under what administration it falls.

The following are the five new programs.

Alberta Emergency Stop-Loss Program

This program guarantees farmers who raise and market hogs $35 per hog plus feed costs. The feed costs are based on the average monthly cost of barley and 40 per cent supplement on a province-wide basis.

The Alberta Emergency Stop-Loss Program came into effect on April 1, 1980, and will remain in effect until March 31, 1981.

Compensation Program for Bear Damage

This program is designed to compensate beekeepers who are registered under the Alberta Bee Act and who have at least 40 hives and an approved electrical fence. It provides compensation of up to $2,000 per individual for bear damage to both honey and equipment.

Federal Excise Tax Exemption

This program enables farmers to collect a sales tax refund on such production inputs as wire, pipes, valves, lumber and drainage tiles that are incorporated directly into agricultural production equipment.

Feed Freight Assistance Program

This program is designed to help farmers in areas that suffer severe drought to purchase winter feed. A farmer may claim specified rates of compensation per ton-mile, based

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Financial Assistance Available For Alberta Farmers (cont'd)

on the type of feed hauled. The maximum assistance available under this program is $3,000 per farmer.

Rebate on Propane and Fuel Oil

This program provides a refund of 35 per cent of the purchase price of propane and fuel oil obtained in areas that are not serviced by a franchised natural gas distributor. Assistance is also provided under this program to farmers who use propane for drying their grain in areas where there is not enough natural gas available to do the job.

Since changes are made periodically to some of the programs summarized in "Assistance Available for Alberta Farmers", anybody who is interested in one of the programs should contact the agency which administers it to make sure that there have not been any recent changes.

Copies of "Assistance Available for Alberta Farmers" (Agdex 871) can be obtained from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8 or from the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, TOM 1PO.

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January 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOUTHERN ALBERTA'S BIGGEST SPRING SHOW

Seven hundred entries and an attendance of more than 60,000 are expected at southern Alberta's biggest spring show, Ag Expo 1981, which is scheduled to take place at the Lethbridge exhibition grounds from March 4 to 7 inclusive.

In the seed section there are 50 different classes, including classes for lentils and triticale. There is also a class for corn silage.

The machinery section will feature all types of farm machines such as combines, tractors, tillage implements and a large assortment of irrigation equipment.

Then there will be a section devoted to agriculturally-related products, which will include herbicides, pesticides, insecticides, fertilizers, etc.

Still another section will consist of booths manned by local commodity groups. They will display agricultural products that originated in Alberta and that are used every day. These could include such things as rapeseed oil, cheese, margarine, butter, milk, wine, etc.

The following short courses will be held in conjunction with Ag-Expo 1981.

March 4 — "Crop Rotation and Moisture Use" by Dr. Paul Brown, Montana State University, U.S.A.

March 5 — "Drainage for Salinity Control" by Dr. Lyman Willardson. Utah State University, U.S.A.

March 6 — "Fertilizer Placement" by Harold Houlton, Northern Montana Research Station, U.S.A.

The following program has been included in the show for the ladies.

March 4 — "Nutrition Facts or Fallacy?"

March 5 — "Danish Pastry Demonstrations" and a fashion show.

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Southern Alberta's Biggest Spring Show (cont'd)

March 6	—	"Poultry Parade" (recipes and demonstrations of new ideas on how to serve poultry products) and a fashion show.
March 7	—	"Conservation of Wildlife'.

Ag-Expo is sponsored by the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce, the Lethbridge and district exhibition association and Alberta Agriculture.

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THE PRICE OF "YESTERDAY"

The price of the book entitled "Yesterday", published by the Alberta Women's Institute Association, and outlined in the January 19 issue of "Agri-News" under the title "Portrait of Alberta Agriculture", is $17.50 a copy.

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January 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENERGY SAVERS

If you use an engine block heater, you will find an automatic outdoor timer an efficient way to save energy, according to an energy management specialist with Alberta Electric Utilities.

Most cars are plugged into electrical power from early evening until the following morning — 13 hours or more. You can avoid all this use of energy by installing an outdoor timer in the line and setting it for about three hours before you plan to use your car. The timer will automatically turn on the heater, and your car will be ready to start as soon as you get into it. In addition to saving energy, the timer will reduce the demand for electricity during peak load periods, which occur between five and seven in the evening. By avoiding the unnecessary use of electrical power during these periods, you will help your electric utility to keep its operation costs to a minimum.

There is another type of timing device called Excell Load Divider that will also help you to save energy. It enables you to plug in two cars for the price of one! In other words, it switches the electrical power from one car to another at approximately 60 second intervals, which means that each car uses only half of its usual amount of power. This type of timing device is particularly useful in cases where there is only one external electrical outlet available for plugging in two cars.

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January 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TAX MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

Alberta Agriculture is sponsoring a seminar on income tax regulations and management strategies for farmers on February 17 at the Grove Motor Inn at Spruce Grove.

Topics on the agenda will include the following:

- The Tax Audit — Appeal Procedures and Record Keeping by Alex Fraser, chartered accountant with Deloitte, Haskins and Sells
- Capital Gains — Tax Implications of Machinery Replacement by Merle Good of Alberta Agriculture's Farm Management Branch.
- Special Considerations — Investment Tax Credit, the Livestock Inventory Provision, Wages Paid to a Spouse and Husband-wife Partnerships by Merle Good.
- Income Averaging — General Average, Five-year Block Average and Income Averaging Annuities by Merle Good and Alex Fraser.
- Property Transfer — Rollover Provisions and Replacement Property Rules by Alex Fraser.
- New Consideration — Lease-Option to Purchase Agreements and the Revised Rate for Companies by Alex Fraser.

Registration is at 9.30 a.m. and the fee is $10, which includes coffee and lunch.

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January 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAPESEED MARKETING SEMINARS AND COMMODITY FUTURES MARKET WORKSHOPS

Do you grow rapeseed? Are you interested in learning about special pricing mechanisms, price determination principles and marketing strategies or are you interested in outlook information? Would you like to use the commodity futures market?

In either case the Alberta Rapeseed Growers Association has something for you It is sponsoring a series of rapeseed marketing seminars and commodity futures market workshops at various locations in the province during February and early March.

Topics that will be covered in the seminars include "An Overview of the World Oilseed Market", "Crusher Marketing Options", "Elevator Marketing Options", "Price Determination and Outlook", "Direct Hedging" and "Producer Cars". The first three topics will be discussed by representatives of the crushers, elevator companies and the Canadian Canola Council. Alberta Department of Agriculture specialists will talk about the remaining topics.

The workshops are designed for people who understand rapeseed marketing fairly well and who are interested in using the commodity futures market. The workshops will combine lectures and small group exercises. Registration will be limited to enable participants to work through the mechanics involved in placing a hedge and in assessing the financial consequences under a variety of market situations.

Following is a list of the places and dates on which the seminars and workshops will be held.

Morinville (Frontiersman Hotel) — seminar — February 2
Grande Prairie (Trumpeter Motor Inn) — seminar — February 9
Grimshaw (Mile Zero Motor Inn) — seminar — February 10
Grimshaw (Mile Zero Motor Inn) — workshop — February 11

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Alberta
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Rapeseed Marketing Seminars And Commodity Futures Market Workshops (cont'd)

Grande Prairie (Trumpeter Motor Inn) – workshop – February 12

Morinville (Frontiersman Hotel) – workshop – February 16

Vermilion (Elks Hall) – seminar – February 19

Olds (Legion Hall) – seminar – February 23

Olds (Legion Hall) – workshop – February 24

Lethbridge (Park Plaza Motor Hotel) – seminar – February 25

Lethbridge (Park Plaza Motor Hotel) – workshop – February 26

Vermilion (Basement of Vermilion Library) – workshop – March 2

To register contact the district agriculturist at the location where the seminar or workshop is being held.

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January 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PASTURE MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

A pasture management seminar, sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, is scheduled to take place at the community centre in Bashaw on February 6.

The first speaker (9.00 a.m.) will be Larry Gareau, forage specialist, who will discuss annual and perennial grass varieties in relation to longevity, soil type, saline soil and productivity in terms of tonnes per acre and protein content. He will be followed by Myron Bjorge, range management specialist with Alberta Agriculture, who will talk about legume varieties, mixes and management from the point of view of their suitability for pastures

Ken Lopetinsky, forage specialist with Alberta Agriculture, will discuss levels of fertilizer to use on pasture, timing, placement and split applications as well as the use of manure and nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and sulphur combinations.

Other speakers and topics on the agenda include Lou Hendrigan, a farmer from Winfield, whose topic will be the philosophy of pasture management. Peter Jones of the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture will discuss breaking and reseeding pasture, brush control, weed control, rodent control and the side effects that can be expected from high fertilization rates.

Dr. Al Robertson of the federal research station at Melfort, Saskatchewan, will talk about grazing systems including rotational grazing, stock rates, bloat control management, the use of various implants to increase beef production, production returns and pasture extenders (grain and salt rations and liquid supplements).

The cost of this seminar is only $10! For information about registering or for more information on the seminar contact the district agriculturist at the Camrose, Lacombe, Ponoka, Rimbey, Stettler or Wetaskiwin district extension office.

January 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"FINDING OUT"

Alberta Agriculture will present a new prime-time TV special, entitled "Finding Out", on February 10.

"Finding Out" will cover research developments in beef and barley cross-breeding and leafcutter bees. Alberta scientists Dr. Roy Berg, head of animal science at the University of Alberta, Dr. Ken Richards and Dr. Ed Swailes of Agriculture Canada and Dr. Jim Helm of Agriculture Canada's research station at Lacombe will be participating in the program.

The program will be broadcast on the following television stations at the following times.

CFRN, Edmonton — 7.00 p.m.
CFCN, Calgary — 8.00 p.m.
CKSA, Lloydminster — 7.30 p.m.
CITL, Lloydminster — 8.00 p.m.

The annual cost of agricultural research in Alberta is $17.9 million. It represents a joint investment by Agriculture Canada and Alberta Agriculture and funds allocated to the University of Alberta. However, for every dollar spent on agricultural research, the return is $1.40.

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January 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA NUTRITION WEEK

Alberta Nutrition Week is coming — March 2 7, 1981. Watch for it and get involved!

This will be the third consecutive year that the Alberta Registered Dietitians' Association has coordinating plans for Alberta Nutrition Week and this year's theme is "Energy In – Energy Out" It reflects the important balance between the calories we consume in the form of food energy and the calories we spend in the form of physical energy. The relationship is obvious in the basic scheme of controlling body weight and maintaining optimum body and muscle tone through physical activity.

Taking in more calories (energy) than the body needs to perform at a certain level of activity will result in excess energy being stored as fat until needed. The options are to either increase physical activity or to decrease the number of calories consumed.

The success of Alberta Nutrition Week depends upon the cooperative effort of all health professionals and people interested in sound nutrition and physical fitness practices. Individuals who are committed to bringing reliable information about nutrition and fitness to communities include:

District home economists

Public health nutritionists

Public health nurses

Dietitians and

Recreation directors — Local YMCA, YWCA.

January 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR OF SWINE BREEDING APPOINTED

F.W. Schuld, head of Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch, has announced the appointment of Edith Heck to the position of assistant supervisor of swine breeding.

Mrs. Heck will be responsible for co-ordinating and training technical field staff involved in the delivery of the swine record of performance program to Alberta hog producers The main emphasis of her work will be on the ultrasonic home testing service for seed stock producers and the development and communication of policies and test information to both the producers and buyers of replacement breeding stock.

Mrs. Heck will be working out of the pork industry branch's headquarters in the Agriculture Building in Edmonton.

She was born in Montreal, Quebec, and grew up on a mixed farm on the Niagara Peninsula in southern Ontario. After working for seven years, mainly in banking, she attended the University of Guelph in Ontario and graduated in 1978 with a B.Sc. (agriculture). Her field of specialization was animal and poultry science

She was employed by Agriculture Canada in the livestock and poultry division from May, 1978 until October, 1980.

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January 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTMENTS

The director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division, John G. Calpas, has announced the appointment of district agriculturists to the department's district offices at Rocky Mountain House and Vegreville.

Rocky Mountain House

John Reid, formerly senior district agriculturist at Peace River, has been transferred to the position of co-district agriculturist at Rocky Mountain House. He succeeds Peter Funk who was transferred to the new Innisfail district office.

A native Albertan and a graduate of the University of Alberta B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1971 with a major in animal science, Mr. Reid is among the "veterans" of the district agriculturist service. Following training at Fairview and Peace River, he was appointed district agriculturist at Manning in the Peace River Region in 1972. Three years later he was transferred to Peace River. His wife, Donna, held district home economist appointments simultaneously at both locations, making the Reids an effective and respected team of co-workers in the department. Together they have been instrumental in bringing about several new extension techniques and media program innovations.

Between university terms, Mr. Reid worked in housing construction with the Alberta Forestry Service, and also with Agriculture Canada's research station at Regina. He has been active in the Peace River Branch of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists and with the Rotary club. His hobbies include photography, outdoor activities and farming.

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District Agriculturist Appointments (cont'd)

Vegreville

Ted Darling has been transferred to the Vegreville office. He succeeds district agriculturist, Nick Chomik, who retired recently. A native of Penhold, Mr. Darling attended the University of Alberta and obtained a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1968. Upon graduation, he joined John Deere Ltd., and, after an initial training period in Edmonton, he was appointed the assistant territorial manager at Vernon, B.C. He left John Deere in late 1970 and for the next two and a half years travelled extensively throughout Australia, Asia and Europe.

Mr. Darling joined Alberta Agriculture in December of 1973 as a water wells program inspector in the family farm division. He was appointed district agriculturist-in-training at Red Deer in 1974 and was subsequently appointed district agriculturist at the Ponoka office in the summer of 1976. He remained the resident district agriculturist at Ponoka until March of 1978. From then until last fall, he got to know this continent a little better by sailing a 28-footer through Central and North American waters.

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January 26 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMISTS-IN-TRAINING

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the appointments of the following district home economists-in-training.

Brooks

Patricia Sinnette is taking her training in Brooks. She comes from Trinidad in the West Indies and obtained her B.A.A. (home economics) in 1980 from the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Ontario, where she has spent the past 10 years. She also has a diploma in library science from the same institute.

Strathmore

Lynda Shott is taking her training at Strathmore. She comes from Daysland and obtained her B.Sc. (home economics) from the University of Alberta in 1976. She also has a pharmacy technician certificate from Red Deer College. Her work experience includes employment with Syncrude, Canada Packers and the University of Alberta Hospital.

Three Hills

Karin Holst is taking her training at Three Hills. She comes from Fairview and obtained her B.Sc. (home economics) from the University of Alberta in 1975. Following graduation she worked as a provincial nutritionist in Papua New Guinea under CUSO. In 1979 she took a job with the Government of the Northwest Territories in Frobisher Bay as home management educator. The following year she worked on a PEP project with the home management specialists in the Alberta Home Economics Laboratory. She later worked with Preventive Social Services in Wildwood, Alberta, as co-ordinator of a homemaker project.

- (cont'd) -

District Home Economists-In-Training (cont'd)

Oyen

Elvira Regier is taking her training at Oyen. She was born in Paraguay and grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She obtained her B.H. Ec. from the University of Manitoba in 1976 and worked with the Mennonite Central Committee in north-eastern Brazil from 1977 to 1979 as a public health nutritionist.

Foremost

Adrianna Munts is taking her training at Foremost. She was born in Burnaby, B.C. and grew up in Vernon, B.C. She obtained her B.H.E. from the University of British Columbia in 1980. Last summer she worked for the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture's marketing branch as an assistant home economist. She spent the two previous summers as a dietary aide at a hospital in Vernon and as a clerk in a fabric store in the same town.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
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February 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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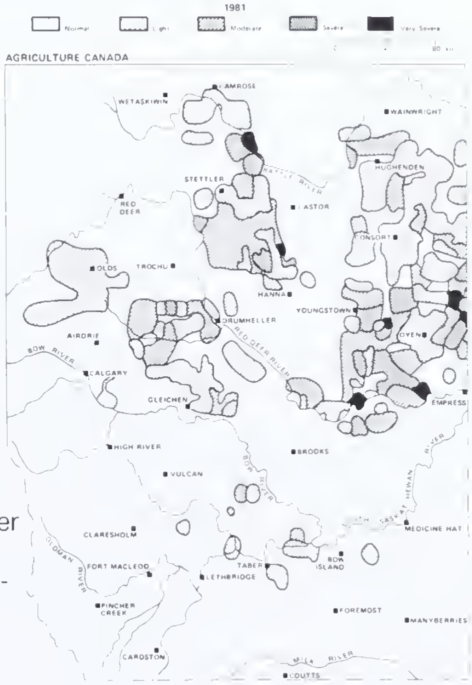
Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1981 ALBERTA GRASSHOPPER FORECAST

Last fall's survey, carried out by personnel at the federal research station in Lethbridge in cooperation with fieldmen in southern Alberta, indicates that crops in the south-central part of the province could suffer severe grasshopper damage this year.

Dr. J.M. Hardman, entomologist at the research station, reports that light, (1-2 grasshoppers per square metre), moderate (2-5 grasshoppers per square metre), severe (5-10 grasshoppers per square metre) and very severe (more than 10 grasshoppers per square metre) infestations are expected to be present in the form a mosaic from Calgary north to Camrose and from Gleichen east to the Saskatchewan border.



An unusual feature of the 1981 grasshopper forecast is it predicts that the extreme south of the province will be relatively free of grasshoppers.

According to Dr. Hardman, last spring's rains in areas south of Calgary caused a heavy mortality rate among newly hatched grasshoppers. However, this was not the case farther north where the grasshoppers reached adulthood several weeks earlier than usual, with the result that they had an unusually long season for laying eggs.

Dr. Hardman says that areas where grasshopper infestations were very severe, severe and moderate, as well as adjacent areas that had only light infestations in 1980, could

- (cont'd) -

1981 Alberta Grasshopper Forecast (cont'd)

suffer economic damage this year. He also says that cropland will be more vulnerable than pasture and range land.

He recommends that farmers in areas that are predicted to have grasshopper infestations keep a close watch, starting about the middle of May, along roadsides and the edges of their fields. If counts reveal more than 15-20 young grasshoppers per square metre on crop land, the infested crop should be sprayed immediately because it is easier to kill these insects while they are still immature.

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February 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 1980 – JANUARY 1981 HOG PRICE SUPPORT LEVELS

The following support prices pertaining to the Alberta Emergency Stop Loss Program for hogs are published as a guide to weanling pig buyers and sellers who use the slaughter market prices in contracts.

Support prices are automatically paid by the Alberta government for slaughter pigs sold through the Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board for each week that the board's weekly average price is below the equivalent price in the following table. Slaughter hogs that are not sold through the board will be subsidized upon receipt of an application form. Application forms and brochures explaining the Alberta Emergency Stop Loss Program can be obtained from all district agriculturists.

No payments will be made from August 11 through December 19 because market prices exceeded the support level during this period. However, the lower prices that prevailed in late December and January will result in further payments being made under the program.

Month	Guaranteed Return per 170-lb. Carcass Grading 101 Index	Equivalent Support Price Per Hundredweight Carcass Grading 100 Index
April, 1980	$103.82	$60.47
May	$104.88	$61.09
June	$105.22	$61.28
July	$105.31	$61.33
August	$105.98	$61.72
September	$107.50 (no support paid)	$62.61

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

April 1980 — January 1981 Hog Price Support Levels (cont'd)

October	$109.54 (no support paid)	$63.80
November	$111.60 (no support paid)	$65.00
December	$113.00	$65.81
January, 1981	$114.47	$66.67
February	$116.58	$67.90

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February 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENZOOTIC BOVINE LEUCOSIS

The director of Alberta Agriculture's animal health division, Dr. H.N. Vance, strongly advises provincial dairymen who plan to buy cattle from Ontario to make sure that each animal is free of enzootic bovine leucosis (also referred to as leucosis or EBL) and, if possible, to make sure that the herd of origin is also free of the disease.

EBL is a disease of cattle in which a relatively small proportion of those infected have tumorous lymph glands in various parts of their bodies. The disease is known to be transmitted by a virus and brought into herds through the purchase of infected animals.

According to Dr. Vance, EBL is uncommon in Alberta cattle. Its chief significance at present is related to export testing because most importing countries require that herds of origin be free of animals that react positively to the test for this disease.

Until recently tests for EBL were carried out only by federal food production and inspection branch (formerly health of animals branch) laboratories. However, an Ontario government laboratory and a private laboratory in that province have begun testing cattle for the disease. Unfortunately, since neither animals that have been tested nor those that react positively to the test have to be identified, there is a good possibility that the positive animals are being sold. Some may be being shipped to Alberta for sale. Dr. Vance says "We do not want this chronic, insidious disease to be introduced into clean Alberta herds in this way".

He also says that Alberta laboratories are working on the test for detecting EBL but that they are not yet in a position to test any volume of cattle. Hence, for the present, dairymen must rely on a negative test from Ontario when they buy an animal from there or on a definite knowledge that the herd of origin is clean.

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February 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN FORAGE SEED SITUATION

Canadian production of forage seeds in 1980 was the lowest it has been in recent years. While some of the decrease can be attributed to an acreage cutback in response to poor prices (i.e. clover), this year's Prairie drought severely reduced yields and resulted in many fields being cut for forage or plowed under. Grass seed yields were especially affected.

Bob Prather, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, reports that producer prices for most grass seeds have been strongly supported by last year's reduced yields, and the tight supplies of timothy and creeping red fescue have been reflected in strong early season producer prices. The availability of pedigreed grass seeds will be limited in 1980-81.

Red clover seed production dropped considerably last year, but supplies of most species remain well above normal market requirements. Mr. Prather says prices to producers will remain low and that the only immediate hope for a change in this situation is that large sales of seed will be made to American farmers who want to use it for green manure crops or for underseeding their winter wheat. However, the large acreage cutbacks that have taken place will eventually remove excess supplies from the market. Alsike clover supplies are not as large as those of red clover and normal demand could increase prices as the 1981-82 crop year approaches. The sweet clover market has already recovered and is showing stronger prices this year.

Following is the price outlook for some individual forage seed crops grown in Alberta:

Creeping Red Fescue

It is now evident that producer prices in Alberta and British Columbia for creeping red fescue will average at least $1.45 per kg for the 1980 crop, and that supplies will be extremely tight going into the 1981 harvest period. Even if there is an increase in the number

- (cont'd)

Canadian Forage Seed Situation (cont'd)

of acres harvested in 1981 and yields are normal, supplies will remain tight and prices are expected to be good in the 1981-82 crop year.

Timothy

Producer prices in Alberta for timothy on a net seed basis are expected to average $1.10 per kg for the 1980-81 crop year compared with 88¢ per kg in 1979-80. There has been an increase in the demand for timothy seed grown in both Alberta and Eastern Canada as a result of the shortfall in the Manitoba and Saskatchewan crops, and the supply of timothy seed will be tighter in 1980-81 compared with last year.

Bromegrass

While the production of bromegrass was down slightly in Canada in 1980, the higher carryover of seed by the trade has led to a reduction in average producer prices to around 90¢ per kg for 1980-81.

Single-Cut Red Clover

It is not expected that a supply/demand balance can be achieved in Alberta for single-cut red clover by the 1982 harvest period, despite last fall's considerable acreage cutback. It would take a very significant increase in export sales to bring things along faster, and, in the meantime, producer returns will remain depressed.

Alsike Clover

Producer prices for alsike clover will average around 22¢ per kg on a net basis in the 1980-81 crop year. It will be necessary to maintain the export sales of recent years and to have another reduced crop in 1981 for a major turnaround to occur in alsike clover markets. However, the large number of acres of seed that were plowed under last fall will help the alsike market to recover in the next crop year.

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Canadian Forage Seed Situation (cont'd)

Sweet Clover

Drought conditions last summer and acreage cutbacks have reduced available supplies of sweet clover to their lowest level since the 1975-76 crop. This situation plus a favorable demand has increased producer prices significantly and those in Alberta are expected to average 29¢ per kg on a net seed basis in 1980-81.

Alfalfa

Although sales of alfalfa seed increased in Canada in 1979-80, the increase was not enough to prevent a buildup of available supplies this year, which resulted in lower prices. However, a significant increase in the national acreage is expected in 1981, mainly in Alberta, and the size of this increase will depend upon the availability and activity of leafcutter bees Producer prices could remain at their current levels or fall slightly in the 1981-82 crop year

Retail prices for both alsike and red clover are expected to be lower in 1981 than they were in 1980 as a result of the significantly lower prices received by producers last year. Alfalfa seed retail prices are not expected to change much in 1981, but retail grass seed prices will increase because of higher producer prices and a continuation of the strong export demand that was experienced in the 1979-80 crop year.

February 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPECIAL CROPS SITUATION AND OUTLOOK IN ALBERTA

The future for such crops as grain corn, lentils, dry beans, fababeans, triticale and mustard seed in Alberta will basically depend upon developments in the grain and oilseed markets, according to Bob Prather of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch. However, production of these crops, mainly in the irrigation areas of southern Alberta, has increased substantially over the past few years and future prospects look promising.

Grain Corn

Although interest in the production of grain corn, concentrated mainly in the Bow Island area, has been sporadic in the past, there is hope that Alberta's production will soon meet a larger portion of the annual provincial demand of 135,000 to 190,000 tonnes. Farmer's investment in drying and storage facilities, improved hybrid varieties and the introduction of marketing by tender by Bow Island Corn Marketing Ltd all indicate the evolution of commercial grain corn operations in the province.

Fifty-five hundred acres of grain corn were harvested in Alberta last year, and yields averaged close to 2.8 tonnes per acre. Prices for the 1980 crop are expected to average between $180 and $190 per tonne.

The prospects for strong feed grain prices in 1981-82 and the possibility of crop insurance coverage for corn will lead to an increase in the 1981 acreage.

Lentils

Lentil production in Western Canada more than doubled in 1980, compared with 1979, to more than 105,000 acres. Yields in Alberta averaged 1,200 pounds per acre under irrigation and 800 pounds per acre on dryland, but the quality of the crop suffered somewhat because of wet harvesting conditions in the more northernly regions of the province.

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Special Crops Situation And Outlook In Alberta (cont'd)

Apart from an annual requirement of less than 500 tonnes for domestic use Canada's lentil markets are mainly located in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. The United States is Canada's main competitor in international markets, and, although Canadian prices tend to run at a discount to U.S. prices, the latter's prices remain the main market indicator.

Dry Beans

Encouraged by attractive prices and favorable grower response, the Alberta Wheat Pool Bean Plant increased its contracts for dry beans to 8,300 acres last year from 7,000 acres in 1979. This acreage was made up of pinto, pink, red, great northern and navy beans. The average yield of all the types was 1,300 pounds, and producer prices averaged around 31c per pound. However, both yields and prices can vary considerably among the various types.

Current prices and future prospects suggest that Alberta's dry bean acreage will increase significantly again this year, and prices are expected to rival those recorded for last year's crop. Two additional companies are considering a capital investment in bean plants in Alberta.

Fababeans

Fababean yields were excellent in Alberta last year. They averaged 3,200 pounds. On irrigation land yields normally vary between 2,500 and 3,500 pounds per acre, while dryland yields vary between 1,200 and 2,000 pounds. Growers received an average price of between 8c and 9¢ per pound for last year's crop, which was not as good as prices for alternative crops. Hence, growers will be reluctant to contract many acres to fababeans this year unless prices increase considerably.

Prices and limited markets have been the main deterents to a further increase in fababean production in Western Canada. Export markets hinge on specific Egyptian tenders, while Europe, Japan and the Middle East offer limited alternatives. Canadian fababeans are not highly competive in these markets.

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Special Crops Situation And Outlook In Alberta (cont'd)

Triticale

Triticale, a cross between wheat and rye, is rapidly becoming popular in southern Alberta. Its acreage increased to 18,000 acres in 1980 compared with only 3,000 acres the year before. Two factors that have contributed to its rapid rise in popularity are its drought resistance and its excellent yields compared with other grains in dryland areas of the southern part of the province. Another factor is that contract offerings have been increasing as companies attempt to build up sufficient supplies to meet feed and milling requirements. There is also a lot of interest in the use of triticale for high yielding silage

Triticale has been trading on the open feed market at between $175 and $185 per tonne. However, the contract price for milling purposes has been only $103 per tonne, but efforts are being made to penetrate this market. Prospects for the further expansion of triticale in Alberta will hinge on the solidification of this crops position in the feed market, both for open market feed and for silage. Last year's yields averaged 0.68 tonnes per acre on dryland and as high as 1.7 tonnes per acre on irrigated land.

Mustard Seed

Mustard seed, which generally has an average yield in excess of 1,000 pounds per acre, is often used as an alternative crop by dryland farmers. Yellow mustard is usually higher priced but lower yielding than the oriental and brown types, and it usually has a fairly broad market base. Markets for the three types are basically export-oriented since there is only one crushing plant in Alberta and the national crushing capacity is limited.

The United States is both a major buyer of Canadian mustard seed and a major competitor in international markets. Since the 1980 Canadian and American crops were insufficient to meet market requirements, prospects for the 1981 mustard seed crop are excellent. Early contract offers of around 17¢ per pound for yellow and 13¢ per pound for brown and oriental seed are attractive.

February 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IRRIGATION SCHEDULING BY COMPUTER

Irrigation scheduling with the aid of a computer is being developed at the federal research station at Lethbridge to help farmers decide when to irrigate and how much water to apply. Computerized scheduling, now being successfully applied in the United States, uses detailed information about the crop, soil and climate and combines their individual effects to facilitate an irrigation decision.

The scientists at Lethbridge have accumulated background information on the daily and seasonal water requirements of grass, alfalfa, wheat, oats, barley, flax, rape, peas, fababeans, soybeans, sorghum, sugar beets, potatoes and corn. They have also collected detailed information about the soils in that area and about the weather as it affects the various crops. Such data as the planting date, soil moisture and the current weather are included in the case of a specific field. The computer combines all the information provided and produces an estimate of how much water the crop has used, how fast it will use the remainder of the water and the date of the next irrigation and the amount of water that will be required. The interacting effects of such things as the drying rate of the soil, crop root development, crop growth stage and the effect of hot, windy or humid days are also taken into account.

Irrigating crops with sufficient water at the correct time helps to hold the line on increasing energy and equipment costs, conserves limited water supplies, maximizes crop yields and quality and preserves productive soil resources.

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February 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

METRICS ARE BUGGING US AGAIN

by Lee Melvill
District Agriculturist, Hanna

How on earth do we figure out those new numbers?

Like most other things, wind chill has been converted to metric. I hate to say it, and I may get shot or worse, but the new system seems to make more sense than the old one

Here's how it works. The new system measures how fast an object cools. The units used are watts per square metre, but you don't have to remember the units. Let's look at an example. Suppose you have a big electric frying pan that uses a maximum of 2,400 watts Now, if it were 70 per cent efficient, it would give off 1,600 watts of heat at full blast. If you were to take that frying pan (1 metre square or 39" by 39") out in a wind chill of 1,600 watts, you could turn it on full blast but it wouldn't warm up. In other words, the combination of wind and cold would blow away 1,600 watts per square metre of heat. Now, how does this apply to people? Here is what to watch for:

Wind Chill Factor (watts)	Conditions
700	comfortable if well dressed
1,200	no longer pleasant for outdoor activities on overcast days
1,400	no longer pleasant outdoors on sunny days
1,600	freezing of exposed skin begins, depending on amount of activity and amount of sunshine
2,300	outdoor travel such as walking dangerous Exposed areas of face freeze in less than one minute
2,700	exposed skin will freeze in less than half a minute

February 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

METRIC RECIPES FOR VEGETABLES AVAILABLE

Alberta Agriculture has recently published a set of vegetable brochures which contain tested metric recipes and microwave cooking instructions when applicable.

The titles of the brochures are "Beets", "Broccoli and Cauliflower", "Carrots", "Corn", "Cucumbers", "Peas and Beans", "Rutabagas", "Salad Greens" (lettuce, spinach, chard and cabbage), "Strawberries and Raspberries" and "Summer Squash" (zucchini, scallop, vegetable marrow and crookneck).

If you would like a set of these brochures which contain many unique and imaginative recipes contact the Food Marketing Branch, Centre West Building, 10035 - 108 Street, Edmonton, T5J 3E1 (Telephone: 427-4036) or 208 Chinook Mall, 6455 McLeod Trail, Calgary S.W., T2H OK8 (Telephone: 253-6252).

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February 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOLUTIONS FOR HOUSE PLANT PROBLEMS

It seems that most house plant problems encountered during the winter are the result of unfavorable growing conditions.

According to Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, low humidity, over or underwatering, fertilizer and salt imbalances and insufficient light are the most common environmental conditions that damage house plants.

Low Humidity

African violets, begonias, ferns and plants that have just come from a cool, moist greenhouse or florist's shop are particularly vulnerable to low humidity. The low humidity in many homes can caused spotted or scortched-looking leaves.

Dr. Howard says the humidity around potted plants can be increased by setting the pots on a brick or an inverted saucer in a large pan of water or by putting them in a planter containing moist sphagnum moss, sand, vermiculite or perlite. A furnace or room humidifier may also help.

Over and Underwatering

Improper watering is usually responsible for the lower leaves on a house plant turning yellow. However, a fertilizer imbalance, excess salts and infectious root diseases can also cause this condition.

Dr. Howard recommends checking the drainage hole in the pot to see if it is blocked or if the plant is standing in water. An excess of water causes oxygen starvation and contributes to root rot.

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Solutions For House Plant Problems (cont'd)

If excess water is not the problem, inspect the roots by tapping the root ball lose from the pot. If the roots and the soil appear to be in good condition, then some fertilizer may be all that the plant requires. However, if the roots look as if they are rotting, a root disease is probably present.

The best way to deal with a root disease is to cut off the roots that are discolored and to remove as much of the soil as possible without damaging the remaining roots. Then dip the root ball into a fungicide solution and repot the plant in sterilized soil.

If the soil and roots are crumbly and dry, the problem is underwatering. In this case, set the pot in a shallow pan of water to enable the root ball to recharge itself with water and then remove the plant. The plant should be watered more frequently in the future.

A good way to water most plants is to give them enough water to thoroughly wet the root ball and run out of the drainage hole. The water that runs out of the drainage hole will help to flush out any accumulated salts. Let the top one to two cm of soil dry out before rewatering the plant.

Fertilizer and Salt Imbalances

As a general rule, house plants need to be fertilized only once every one to two months. If you prefer to fertilizer with each watering, Dr. Howard recommends cutting the fertilizer rate used accordingly. He also recommends using a fertilizer that contains nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and trace elements.

An excessive use of fertilizer or of water containing a high concentration of salts may cause the leaves of house plants to turn yellow or to burn around their edges. The best way to correct this situation is to report the plant in fresh soil or to occasionally flush the soil

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Solutions For House Plant Problems (cont'd)

out with salt-free water. The problem can be avoided by careful fertilization and by using rain water, melted snow or distilled water.

Insufficient Light

Unnaturally small leaves are usually a sign of insufficient light, which is particularly common when outdoor plants are brought indoors. Spindly growth is another sign of insufficient light. Also, a plant that is moved from a sunny location to one that is poorly lit often drops a large portion of its leaves.

However, an abnormally high loss of leaves can also be caused by a rapid temperature change, dry air, cold drafts or exposure to furnace fumes. The lower leaves of rubber plants, cut-leaf philodendrons and dumbcane naturally turn yellow and drop off as these plants become older. When such plants lose too many of their lower leaves, you can induce root formation on the bare portion of the stem and create a new plant. General leaf-yellowing at the top of a plant may indicate a lack of light or a lack of trace elements. To solve the problem, either provide more light or a fertilizer, depending upon which disorder is causing the condition.

February 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAND DEGRADATION SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD IN EDMONTON

Are farmers mis-managing their land? Is Western Canada losing its fertile soil? These are just two of a number of subjects that will be discussed at a symposium on soil degradation, scheduled to be held at the Terrace Inn in Edmonton (4445 Calgary Trail South) on February 25.

Scientists from across Western Canada will discuss what's happening to our soils from such points of view as: salinization, acidification, organic matter loss and erosion. It is hoped that projections can be made regarding factors that are improving or destroying the productive capacity of agricultural land in Western Canada.

The one-day symposium will be summarized by well-known soil scientist Dr. C.F. (Fred) Bentley of Edmonton. Organizers hope proceedings of this scientific gathering will provide a vehicle for soil scientists to state their case on soil degradation as it relates to land use.

Further information is available from Terry Macyk or Wayne Pettapiece, Alberta Research Council, Edmonton (Telephone: 438 - 1555).

February 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOT LUNCHES FOR COLD DAYS

by Linda St. Onge
Home Economics Laboratory, Alberta Agriculture

"Have you got your lunch?" These are familiar words to thousands of school children and workers as they leave home each morning.

It is great to anticipate a hot meal during cold winter days, and a hot lunch is possible even for a "brown-bagger"!

If you are lucky enough to have the use of a microwave oven where you eat your lunch, the possibilities are endless. All you really need are meal-sized containers for your lunches.

Try these.

- Casseroles such as macaroni and cheese
- Goulashes
- Stews
- Rice dishes
- Soups
- Scrambled eggs

Many things can be carried and kept hot in a vaccuum jar. The wide mouth type is probably the easiest to use. Be sure (test with a thermometer) that the food goes into the jar piping hot and that it remains at a temperature of above 60° C during the time that it is kept in the jar.

Some food ideas for vaccuum jars.

- Soups
- "Pourable" casseroles such as chili, stew and goulash
- A piping hot frankfurter in boiling water (carry the bun separately)

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Hot Lunches For Cold Days (cont'd)

- Taco-filling (carry taco shell, lettuce and tomato separately)

Do you have a place at work or school to plug in one of the small, travel-type heaters that are used to boil a cup of water? If so, you can use it to heat:

- Soup
- Individually-canned portions of spaghetti, stew, chili, etc.
- A hard boiled egg

Planning for hot lunches increases the choices available, and makes it easier to choose foods from each of the four food groups.

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AGRI-NEWS

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February 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE

February 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATTLE OUTLOOK

It appears that there is a very real possibility of the erratic cattle prices that were experienced during the spring and summer of 1979 prevailing again in 1981.

A1 and A2 steers in Calgary are expected to remain under pressure during most of February, to recover in March and to average out at between $77 and $78 per hundredweight during the first quarter of 1981. It is also anticipated that lower slaughter supplies in the second quarter and lower supplies of hogs will permit A1 and A2 steers in Calgary to move into the mid-$80 per hundredweight range during this period.

According to Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, the immediate outlook for the North American cattle market is not encouraging. Continued abundant supplies of pork and poultry, coupled with a concentration of heavy cattle on feed, means that North American consumers will have a plentiful supply of red meat and poultry. Lower cattle prices in the United States have made it profitable for Canadian packers to import U.S. cattle for slaughter, and although Ontario has dominated the import market, American cattle have also been imported into Manitoba and Saskatchewan. This situation is expected to continue until American prices recover.

While there is a concentration of heavy cattle in American feedlots, the number of medium weight feeders (steers 700-900 pounds and heifers 500-700 pounds) currently on feed is at its lowest level since 1975. The important question is how many long yearlings are there outside feedlots that could go into them in the first quarter for eventual slaughter in the second quarter. The fact that so many heavy cattle are currently on feed suggests that the supply of long yearlings outside feedlots may be limited. In which case 1981 could be characterized by a large proportion of the slaughterings taking place in the first quarter of the year and this situation being followed by a decline in supplies in the second quarter. If so, prices would rally

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Cattle Outlook (cont'd)

sharply in the second quarter and the rally would be followed by a return to lower price levels as normal supplies become available in the second half of 1981.

A second concern relates to actual available supplies. If North American producers begin to retain more heifers for breeding, the available slaughter supply will be further reduced. While the recent trend towards retaining heifers has been limited and is likely to remain so for another breeding season, the chance of a further increase in the rate of heifer slaughter is also limited. In essence, the rate of heifer slaughter is so high now that there is more likelihood of a decrease in available heifer supplies than an increase.

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February 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG OUTLOOK

One hundred index hogs are expected to trade at Edmonton in the $65-$70 per hundredweight range during the remainder of February and during March and to yield a first quarter average in the neighborhood of $66 per hundredweight. During the second quarter they are expected to trade in the high $60's to mid-$70's, with the higher prices occurring in May and June.

Canadian Supply Situation

The fourth quarter Canadian production pattern in 1980 suggests that, while production continued to exceed that of a year ago, the rate of increase had begun to decline. For example, the total Canadian output increased by 18 per cent during 1980 as a whole, but the fourth quarter output was only 7 per cent above the year-ago level. On a regional basis, fourth quarter production in Ontario was unchanged from a year ago, while the annual rate of increase was 11 per cent. At the other extreme, fourth quarter production in British Columbia was 71 per cent above the year earlier level, and the total output for the year was 88 per cent above the 1979 level. Output in Alberta increased by 11 per cent during the fourth quarter compared with an annual rate of 18 per cent.

Although Statistics Canada estimates of Canadian hog inventories on January 1 and producer farrowing intentions for the period January to June will not be released until mid-February, it is anticipated that the January inventory will show little change from that of last year. Inventories and farrowing intentions are expected to reflect the variation evident in the fourth quarter slaughter, which range from Ontario's inventory being below that of a year ago to British Columbia's being well above that of a year ago. Alberta's inventory is expected to be unchanged or slightly higher than that of January 1, 1980.

- (cont'd) -

Hog Outlook (cont'd)

American Situation

The December 1, 1980 U.S. Hog Inventory Report was a great disappointment to the North American hog industry. While expectations had called for a 10 to 12 per cent decline in farrowings, hog producers in the 14 major producing states indicated they intend to farrow only 6 per cent fewer hogs in the December 1980 to February 1981 period and 5 per cent fewer in the March to May period. However, it is felt that the poor profitability level in the industry and the major downward readjustment of 1981 price expectations is likely to result in hog producers changing their production plans from those indicated in the December 1 report.

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February 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2, 4-D BAN NOT EXPECTED TO AFFECT ALBERTA SUPPLY

The gradual phasing out of 2, 4-D products that contain dioxins is not expected to affect the supply of 2, 4-D in Alberta in either 1981 or 1982. What will change, however, is the availability of specific formulations in 1982. Most of the 2, 4-D available at that time will be the amine type with lesser quantities of the low-volatile esters also being available. No high volatile butyl esters will be on the market when present stock have been depleted.

Agriculture Canada announced on January 27, 1981 that the manufacturing of the basic components of 2, 4-D esters will be discontinued immediately; that the butyl esters will be phased out and that all 2, 4-D that comes on the market in 1982 must be dioxin-free.

However, there is no need for concern about the health effects of the 2, 4-D ester formulations presently on the market. They are basically the same products that have been used since 1945. Following the precautions outlined on the label should provide adequate protection.

If this is the case, you may ask "Why the Ban?" Walter Yarish, supervisor of weed control and herbicides with Alberta Agriculture, explains that recently developed techniques in Ottawa have identified several dioxins in the esters of 2, 4-D, and, while these are not the TCDD found in the formulations of 2,4,5.t, many of their characteristics have not yet been clearly identified. "Since it is now possible to manufacture dioxin-free 2, 4-D, Ottawa has chosen to follow that root", Mr. Yarish says.

February 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDING FIRST-CALF HEIFERS

by Ron Weisenburger
Head, Animal Nutrition, Alberta Agriculture

While properly feeding the cows in a beef herd is more important during the next three or four months than at any other time of the year, it is even more important for first-calf heifers.

In addition to needing feed to supply milk after calving, a first-calf heifer needs feed to meet her reproductive requirements and to enable her to grow at a normal rate. This growth factor is part of the reason that it takes a first-calf heifer longer to get ready for re-breeding than it takes a mature cow. The difficulty in calving that is often experienced by first-calf heifers is another factor responsible for the longer time to first heat.

In a study carried out by Wiltbank at Colorado State University in the United States 88 per cent of the mature cows were cycling 50 days after calving compared with only 64 per cent of the two and three year-old heifers. He found that as a general rule first-calf heifers take about 20 days longer to begin cycling than mature cows. This means that these animals should be bred to calve about three weeks before the main herd to give them the extra time they need to get ready for rebreeding.

A first-calf heifer requires about the same amount of energy per day as a mature cow, but she needs more protein, calcium and phosphorous. Also, since heifers are smaller than mature cows, they require better quality feed to obtain the level of nutrients they need. For this reason heifers should, when possible, be fed separately from mature cows that are in good condition. Another reason for separating heifers from mature cows is that the former have difficulty competing with the latter for feed.

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Feeding First-Calf Heifers (cont'd)

The following are possible rations that will meet the energy and protein requirements of a 950-pound heifer in late pregnancy. No allowance has been made for feed wastage.

Ration No.1

15	lb good quality grass hay
2.5	lb grain
1.5	lb 32% protein supplement

Ration No.2

20	lb good quality alfalfa-grass hay

Ration No.3

30	lb cereal silage (65% moisture)
2.5	lb grain
2	lb 32% protein supplement

Ration No.4

30	lb cereal silage
6	lb good quality alfalfa hay

Ration No.5

12	lb good quality grass hay
8	lb good quality alfalfa hay

Ration No.6

10	lb good quality alfalfa hay
10	lb good quality oat or barley straw

In addition to the above rations, heifers which are receiving less than 32 per cent supplement than is contained in rations No.1 and No.3 should be given supplemental vitamin A and a mineral supplement containing at least 14 per cent phosphorous and an equal amount of

- (cont'd) -

calcium on a free-choice basis with all the rations except for No.1 and No.3. All the rations including No.1 and No.3 should be supplemented, on a free-choice basis, with either a trace mineral salt or a cobalt-iodized salt.

The nutritional requirements of a first-calf heifer increase considerably after she has calved because of the milk that she is producing. It is important to meet these requirements if the heifer is to have a good chance of rebreeding early in the breeding season.

The following rations will meet the energy and protein requirements of an average milk-producing 900-pound heifer between the time she calves and the time she is rebred.

Ration No.1

20	lb good quality alfalfa
3	lb grain

Ration No.2

18	lb good quality alfalfa-grass hay
5	lb grain

Ration No.3

35	lb cereal silage (65% moisture)
5.5	lb grain
1.5	lb 32% protein supplement

Ration No.4

15	lb good quality grass hay
7	lb grain
1	lb 32% protein supplement

A superior milking heifer should receive 3 or 4 pounds of grain in addition to the above rations. In the case of rations No.3 and No.4, the grain should contain a protein supple-

- (cont'd) -

Feeding First-Calf Heifers (cont'd)

ment that is in the same ratio of grain to protein supplement as is shown in rations No.3 and No.4

Heifers that are being fed rations that are similar to No.3 or No.4 should also receive either a trace mineral salt or a cobalt-iodized salt, on a free-choice basis, and a mineral supplement which contains at least 14 per cent phosphorous and an equal amount of calcium on a free-choice basis.

Heifers that are being fed rations that are similar to No.1 or No.2 should be given enough supplemental vitamin A to provide 60,000 IU per head per day, and they should be given either a trace mineral salt or a cobalt-iodized salt on a free-choice basis.

First-calf heifers on rations No.1 and No.2 also need to eat between 2 and 4 ounces of the calcium-phosphorous mineral supplement described above per head per day to ensure that they get enough phosphorous to meet their requirements. Since it is unlikely that they will eat this amount on a free-choice basis, it is best to mix it with the grain being fed because a phosphorous deficiency can cause poor reproductive performance.

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February 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE RELATIONSHIP OF HORMONES TO CALF GROWTH

How do hormones affect the growth of calves? A series of experiments on dairy bulls will be conducted over the next five years at Agriculture Canada's research station at Lethbridge in an attempt to answer this question.

Dr. G.J. Mears, animal physiologist, says the initial phase of the research will involve an evaluation of the secretion rates, metabolic clearance rates and blood levels of insulin and the growth hormone. Later phases will cover the adrenal hormones, cortisol and corticosterone and the thyroid hormones, thyroxine and triiodothyronine.

Even though the specific factors that are responsible for different growth rates in individual animals of the same breed or lines that are under similar feeding and management conditions are basically unknown, it is known that certain hormones must be present in the blood for normal growth to take place. However, the way in which these metabolic hormones control growth rates is still not clear.

The research at Lethbridge is designed to provide a better understanding of how hormones control calf growth rates, and, hopefully, to provide some indication of the specific hormone responsible for fast-growing animals. Such knowledge would enable cattlemen to select calves what would grow more rapidly than the average, to manipulate the natural secretion and utilization of hormones that increase body growth rates and, possibly, to treat with natural hormones to speed up growth rates.

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February 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BARLEY PRODUCTION CLINIC

You are requested to register by March 4 if you would like to attend the Barley Production Clinic at the Norseman Inn in Camrose on March 5.

The agenda is as follows:

Barley Varieties — Selection and Recommendations

Barley breeder, Dr. Jim Helm, will discuss malting barley versus feed barley versus high moisture barley; the straw strength of various barley varieties; the adaptation of barley to black, thin black and dark brown soils; the utilization efficiency of barley to fertilizers and moisture and future barley research.

Cultural Practices

A producer panel made up of Grant Jackson of Galahad, Walter Gusse of Wetaskiwin and Harold Luce of Ponoka will talk about barley from the point of view of seeding depth, rate and timing; spring and fall cultivation practices, disease control and its place in a crop rotation. Robert Nelson, head of Alberta Agriculture's cereals and oilseed branch, will summarize the opinions expressed by the panel.

Disease Identification and Control

Dr. Ieuan Evans, crop pathologist with Alberta Agriculture, will cover the main barley diseases and their symptoms, yield reductions from disease, and control measures.

Fertilizers and Barley

Dr. Don Walker of the federal research station at Lacombe will talk about the timing of fertilizer applications and their placement; the amount of fertilizer required to produce 100 bushels of barley per acre; the main nutrients and micro-nutrients required by barley and soil acidity and liming.

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Barley Production Clinic (cont'd)

Weed Control

Walter Yarish, supervisor of weed control with Alberta Agriculture, will outline grassy weed problems (wild oats, green foxtail) and broadleaved weed problems (corn spurry, chickweed, hemp nettle) in barley production; crop tolerance and variety specificity to herbicides; herbicide rotation and cultural weed control.

The clinic will conclude with an outline of the aims and objectives of the Western Barley Growers Association by its president, Hugh Craig.

The cost of this clinic is only $10 which includes lunch. Contact the district agriculturist at Camrose, Lacombe, Ponoka, Rimbey, Stettler, Wetaskiwin, Ryley, Sedgewick or Leduc to register or for more information on the Barley Production Clinic.

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February 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORAGE SEED SEMINAR

"Forage Seeds in the 1980's" is the theme of a one-day seminar that will be held at the Golden Inn in Grande Prairie on February 25.

The seminar will cover some of the most important factors that will affect the viability of the Alberta grass and legume seed industry during the next decade.

The guest speaker will be Dr.D. Meyers, forage specialist at Ohio State University in the United States, who will discuss the present and future use of clover seed in his country.

Dr. Art Guitard, director-general of Agriculture Canada's Western Research Division in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, will outline forage research programs that are planned for the 1980's.

Other topics on the agenda are "An Overview of the Forage Seed Industry" by Marcel Maisonneuve, chairman of the Alberta Forage Seed Council; "Plowdown for the Peace River Area" by Mike Rudakewich, Alberta Agriculture; "Outlook for Alberta Forage Seeds" by Bob Prather, Alberta Agriculture; "The local Market for Forage Seed" by Ken Lopetinsky, Alberta Agriculture and "SeCan and Its Role in Forage Seed Marketing" by Larry White, Secretary-Manager, SeCan Association, Ottawa, Ontario.

The agenda will also include a panel discussion on the seed trade, moderated by Don Macyk of Alberta Agriculture, and a question period.

A registration fee of $10, which will include a smorgasborg lunch, will be collected at the door.

February 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEAFCUTTER BEES AND ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

A practical seminar on leafcutter bees and alfalfa seed production will be held at Fairview College on February 23 and 24.

Don MacDonald, supervisor of apiculture with Alberta Agriculture, will start off the seminar with a discussion of the role of the provincial apiarist in leafcutter production and the interaction between leafcutters and honey bees. He will be followed by Peter Pankiew, scientist at the federal research station at Beaverlodge, whose topics will be the "Effect of Origin of Bees" and the "Effect of Light and Temperature on Bees and Seed Production". Mr. Pankiew will also outline pre-field placement and management of leafcutters and Robert Gartly, director of the Alberta Leafcutter Bee Association, will talk about the post-field placement and management of these bees.

The second day of the seminar will open with an address by Robert Parks, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of special crops at Lacombe. He will speak on alfalfa seed production, while Mike Rudakevich, Alberta Agriculture's regional plant supervisor, will outline environmental considerations as they relate to the leafcutter bee. Darly Watson, manager of the Peace River Seed Co-op, will discuss seed cleaning and marketing, and commercial leafcutter bee operators, Doug Roy and Keith Edgson, will describe their experiences with a commercial leafcutter/alfalfa seed operation. The agenda will also include a talk on pest control.

The registration fee for the seminar, which is being sponsored by Fairview College, is $25. This fee should be sent to Terry Stringer, Continuing Education, Fairview College, Box 3000, Fairview, Alberta, TOH 1LO.

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February 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR ALBERTA BRANCH OF CSGA

The new slate of officers elected at the recent annual meeting of the Alberta Branch of the Canadian Seed Growers Association is as follows:

President:	Robin Hopkins, Peace River
Vice-President:	Art Strain, Foremost
Provincial Directors:	Robert Graham, Olds
	Roger Lee, Stettler
	Dalton Longson, Beaverlodge
	Gordon Rasmusson, Standard
National Directors:	Douglas Cooper, Lacombe
	Bruce Fuhr, Spruce Grove
	Don Ostergard, Drumheller
Secretary-Treasurer:	Bill Witbeck, Lacombe

R.W. Nelson, head of Alberta Agriculture's cereal & oilseed section, and A.E. Sherman, head of the forage section, were chosen to serve in an advisory capacity.

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February 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOME ECONOMICS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Do you ever submit questions to Alberta Agriculture's home economics laboratory in Edmonton? Following are some interesting questions that have been submitted during the past year and the answers to them.

Question:

Can honey be substituted for sugar when canning fruit?

Answer:

Yes. Sugar is not needed to prevent spoilage. However, it does help to conserve the flavor, shape and texture of the fruit.

There seems to be some confusion about the amount of sugar that can be replaced with honey. For example, the Canadian Western Natural Gas Company's "Home Canning" says "Honey may be used in place of all or part of the sugar." Agriculture Canada's "Canning Canadian Fruits and Vegetables" says "Up to one quarter of the sugar may be replaced with an equal quantity of honey." The United States Department of Agriculture's "Home Canning of Fruits and Vegetables" says "You may use light corn syrup or mild-flavored honey to replace as much as one half of the sugar." These publications are all referring to quality of foods; not safety.

Question:

How do you cream liquid honey?

Answer:*

Use a ratio of one part creamed honey to 10 parts liquid honey. Prewarm creamed honey slightly to soften. Heat liquid honey to 33° C - 38° C and add creamed honey to liquid and mix together thoroughly. Store honey in basement or cool place at 13° C - 14° C during creaming process.

*Information obtained from Dr.U. Soehngen, former provincial apiarist.

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Home Economics Questions And Answers (cont'd)

Question:

What do you add to all-purpose flour so it can be substituted for self-rising flour?

Answer:*

Add 1½ teaspoons baking powder and 1/4 teaspoon salt to one cup of flour.

Question:

Is it true that distilled water is not good for you?

Answer:

Distilled water has all the electrolytes removed from it. Although electrolytes are useful to the body, they can be obtained from other sources in a normal diet.

In softened water, the calcium ions are replaced by sodium ions. This extra sodium could prove harmful to people with severe kidney and heart ailments

*Source: Blue Flame Kitchen home economists and Alberta Agriculture's food specialists.

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February 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST APPOINTMENTS

The head of Alberta Agriculture's regional economics and business services branch, Sandy Lauder, has announced the appointments of three economists to the department's regional offices in Lethbridge, Airdrie and Fairview.

Lethbridge

George Jagielski, formerly senior farm management technician at Lethbridge, has assumed the duties of an agricultural economist and will be working out of the same office.

He is a native Albertan and a graduate of the University of Lethbridge and has taken additional agricultural economics courses on computer programming, data processing and farm management from the universities of Lethbridge and Oregon and the McKay Technical Institute.

His farm background and his experience with a local accountant and Alberta Agriculture since 1973 makes him well qualified for his new responsibilities in the areas of financial and business management programs. His main duties will be to develop and promote the use of business management, and financial, tax and estate planning strategies among district staff and rural residents.

Airdrie

Dwayne Couldwell has joined Alberta Agriculture's Airdrie office as regional economist in marketing. He replaces Les Lyster who was promoted to market analyst in Edmonton.

Mr. Couldwell graduated with a B.Sc.A. from the University of Saskatchewan in 1975. He has also studied accounting, finance, securities and various other business-oriented courses.

He has a good knowledge of livestock issues from his association with the family farm near Prince Albert. He specialized in grains and oilseeds during the last five years, which

- (cont'd) -

Three Agricultural Economist Appointed (cont'd)

he spent with Cargill Grain Company Ltd. His experience with that company included grain coordinator at the Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton and Calgary offices in addition to periods spent in Chicago and Kansas City. While in Toronto as junior merchant for the company, he was in charge of western feed grains shipped to Ontario, which entailed management positions in the feed grains and brokerage areas of all grain and feed products sold to domestic feed manufacturers.

In his new position, Mr. Couldwell will evaluate and implement marketing and economic extension programs to meet the needs of departmental staff, agribusiness and farm families. He will also assist other branch staff with programs in the Lethbridge and Red Deer regions.

Fairview

George Monner has been appointed regional economist (management) at the Fairview office. He replaces Harvey Glasier who left Alberta Agriculture to farm west of Fairview.

Mr. Monner is a 1971 graduate of the University of Alberta with a major in agricultural economics. Before joining Alberta Agriculture, he managed a 1,800-acre grain farm near Vulcan, which had a 14,000 bird poultry enterprise on it. He subsequently worked in several temporary positions with Alberta Agriculture. These included regional economist at Airdrie and applied researcher in th area of micro-computer technology as it relates to farm management problems. He has developed and tested many of the computer programs currently being used by departmental staff and Alberta farmers.

His main role in his new position will be to plan, implement and evaluate economic and management extension programs. These will cover such things as financial management and tax and estate planning. He will also help to develop all sectors of the agricultural industry in the Peace River region.

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AGRI-NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORE ALBERTA FIRMS RECEIVE NUTRITIVE PROCESSING ASSISTANCE

Six Alberta firms are to receive assistance totalling $324,775 under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement.

The Northern Alberta Rapeseed Producers Co-op Ltd. will receive $218,752 to improve the efficiency and productivity of its canola processing plant at Sexsmith. The total cost of the improvements is estimated to be $1,093,759 and six new jobs are expected to be created.

The Northern Alberta Agribusiness Division of Terrace Corporation (Construction) Ltd. will receive $60,425 to help it improve the efficiency of its alfalfa processing plant at Falher. Efficiency improvements worth an estimated $335,692 have been made to the plant which produces alfalfa pellets.

The Companions' Society Ltd, a co-op from St. Isidore, will receive $20,763 towards the cost of its new dry fertilizer blending plant at Falher. The plant is estimated to cost $129,764 and three part-time jobs are expected to be created.

Crockett Soil Service Ltd of Innisfail will receive $13,025 to purchase and install equipment to produce liquid suspension fertilizer. The estimated cost of the project is $82,530 and one job is expected to be created.

Bassano Growers Co-op Ltd of Bassano will receive $7,743 to help it purchase and install a high speed continuous brush peeler, insulation and refrigeration for three storage bins and an automatic potato bagger. Bassano Growers washes, grades and packs locally grown potatoes for the fresh market and for processing. The estimated cost of the purchases and installations is $38,715 and two new jobs are expected to be created.

Marnan's Village Quality Meats Ltd in Grande Prairie will receive $4,067 to help defray the cost of increasing its cooler and freezer capacity. The estimated cost of this expansion is $20,333.

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February 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEARINGS TO START ON OIL AND GAS WELL DRILLING SITES

The Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) will be starting hearings on oil and gas well drilling sites at the Edmonton Plaza Hotel in Edmonton on March 16 at 9 a.m.

The hearings are being held in response to requests from the Bonanza and District Surface Rights Association, the Smoky River Surface Rights Association and Unifarm regarding changes to the ERCB's regulations that govern gas and oil well drilling sites in the province.

The ERCB regulates the 40 acres of a quarter section on which a petroleum company can drill an oil well and the 250 acres of a section on which it can drill a gas well. In 1974 the board determined that oil wells must be located in the northeast 40 acres of a quarter section, as opposed to the centre, in that part of the province which lies south of township 31 and east of the fifth meridian. Last year it made a similar ruling for the Grande Prairie area.

The present hearings are being held to determine whether there is a need to extend the regulation that now applies to the south-east part of the province and the Grande Prairie area to the remainder of the province or whether there is a more satisfactory approach that could be adopted for the whole of the province.

If you or your farm organization are interested in participating in the hearings, you must provide the ERCB with 15 copies of your brief on or before March 5. You can obtain background material on the subject from your district agriculturist or the ERCB. The address of the latter is: The Energy Resources Conservation Board, 640-5th Avenue, S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2P 3G4.

February 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FARM CASH RECEIPTS, EXPENSES AND NET INCOME

Although the realized net income of Alberta farmers dropped slightly in 1980, it is projected to increase by 18 per cent this year to $762 million.

According to Phil Jensen, agricultural economist with Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch, most Alberta farmers benefited from another good year in 1980; the third in a row. He reports that farm cash receipts increased to $3,054 million in 1980 from $2,840 million in 1979. This increase was mainly due to stronger grain prices and improved grain marketings.

Mr. Jensen also says that initial indications for 1981 are that grain movement and prices will remain strong, and that cattle and hog prices will be higher than they were in 1980. This situation should result in an increase in the 1981 net farm income. Total farm cash receipts for the present year are projected to be $3,538 million, which represents an increase of 16 per cent compared with 1980.

Most Alberta farmers will probably remember 1980 as a year of rising inflation, considerably higher interest rates and high energy-related expenses. The outlook for farm expenses indicates that a similar situation will prevail in 1981.

Total operating expenses and depreciation charges increased by 14 per cent in 1980 compared with 1979 to reach $2,440 million. Total operating expenses and depreciation for this year are forecast to increase by 15 per cent to $2,811 million.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEED GRAIN OUTLOOK

Non-board elevator prices for barley are expected to be in the $125 to $135 per tonne range from now until spring. The Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) interim payment of around $6.90 per tonne will provide some additional support to the non-board barley market but it is not particularly bullish.

Les Lyster of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch reports that Canadian barley production for 1980 is estimated at 11.04 million tonnes or 30 per cent above the 1979 level. According to Mr. Lyster, Alberta's barley crop accounts for 53 per cent of the total Canadian production.

Canadian barley supplies for 1980-81 are currently estimated at 13.04 million tonnes or about 0.3 million tonnes below the 1979-80 level. Barley exports are expected to be around 3.6 million tonnes, representing a 15 per cent drop compared with the 1979-80 level. Mr. Lyster says barley exports in 1980-81 will be limited by supplies and by the CWB's export policy rather than by demand in the world barley market. Carryover stocks on July 31, 1981 are expected to be around 2.4 million tonnes compared with 2 million tonnes on July 31, 1980.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEAT OUTLOOK

The tight world wheat supply and demand balance is expected to hold wheat prices near their current levels or slightly higher until about March. After that they are expected to decline seasonally into next summer, providing 1981-82 wheat crop developments in the major wheat producing countries are favorable.

Les Lyster, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, says "We do not anticipate any serious price weakening to occur in the months ahead. The Canadian Wheat Board asking price for No.1 Canada Western Red Spring wheat (13.5%) Vancouver is not likely to fall below $210 per tonne during the current crop year".

The 1980 Canadian and Alberta wheat crops, estimated at 19.1 million tonnes and 5.3 million tonnes respectively, are both above 1979 levels. Total Canadian wheat supplies are estimated at 29.7 million tonnes or 2.4 million tonnes below the 1979-80 level, and Canadian wheat exports are expected to be approximately 15.5 million tonnes. Carryover stocks on July 31, 1981, are predicted to be about 8.5 million tonnes.

Mr. Lyster expects Canadian farmers to increase their wheat acreage by 5 per cent or more in 1981. Hence, this year's crop will be around 21 million tonnes, if normal yields prevail. Mr. Lyster says a crop of this size would result in 1981-82 Canadian wheat supplies similar to those of 1980-81.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG PRODUCTION COSTS

by Alan George
Regional Swine Specialist, Alberta Agriculture

Feed input is no longer responsible for 80 per cent of the cost of raising a hog. With the steady and continual rise in the cost of all farm inputs, the old rule of thumb that feed accounts for 80 per cent of the cost of raising a hog no longer applies. In fact, non-feed inputs are now responsible for more than 50 per cent of the total cost of hog production.

The recent United States Department of Agriculture figures in the following table show that from 1972 to 1979 most non-feed costs more than doubled, and that interest rates led the way with a massive 325 per cent increase. These were followed by fuel costs which increased by 255 per cent and machinery costs (including tractors) which increased by 225 per cent.

Changes in the costs of selected items involved in hog production, 1973-80[1]

	Percentage change from previous year									
Input	*1973*	*1974*	*1975*	*1976*	*1977*	*1978*	*1979*[2]	*1979 as per $100 1972*	*Est. 1980*[3]	*Est. 1980 as per $100 1972*
Farm origin:										
Corn	61.5	54.5	-7.5	-7.6	-18.5	3.4	11.7	200.32	1.8	203.93
Grain sorghum	57.6	43.4	-6.1	7.0	-22.4	10.3	13.6	220.78	4.9	231.60
Oats	43.9	53.7	1.4	.7	-13.4	-10.9	12.4	195.52	2.3	200.38
Soybean meal	112.1	-28.6	-13.9	20.6	21.2	-11.9	12.2	193.57	-11.0	172.37
Breeding stock[4]	36.0	29.4	-4.7	24.3	-20.0	15.5	15.3	222.69	-28.4	159.02
Feeder pigs	39.9	-20.0	53.1	-2.8	-6.0	28.9	-26.3	145.36	-36.2	92.87
Nonfarm origin:										
Wage rates	9.2	14.8	7.9	9.5	7.5	7.2	9.4	188.72	7.5	200.72
Interest[3]	16.9	20.0	17.6	13.0	15.2	19.8	26.4	325.20	25.2	407.15
Taxes[5]	2.1	6.2	7.6	7.2	9.5	8.0	9.2	158.82	7.9	171.37
Buildings and fences	12.2	23.1	13.8	4.4	6.5	7.9	9.6	207.05	6.8	221.14
Autos and trucks	5.8	11.0	18.6	11.0	10.4	5.8	10.3	199.18	7.9	214.92
Tractors and self-propelled machinery	7.0	17.5	21.1	11.3	9.3	9.1	11.5	225.33	10.8	249.87
Other machinery	6.9	14.4	23.9	14.2	9.3	8.1	10.0	224.90	9.8	246.94
Farm and motor supplies	5.3	22.5	14.3	-2.4	.5	3.9	10.5	166.04	15.4	191.81
Fuels and energy	7.4	37.1	11.3	5.6	7.9	4.5	30.8	255.24	48.6	379.29
Agricultural chemicals	1.9	13.3	34.5	8.8	-9.8	-6.2	2.0	145.79	15.2	167.95

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[1] *Data from "Agricultural Statistics and Agricultural Prices," ESCS, USDA. All data are on a calendar year basis.*
[2] *Preliminary, based on partial data for 1979.*
[3] *Projected.*
[4] *Changes based on January prices received for all hogs.*
[5] *Reflects changes in costs rather than rates.*

- (cont'd) -

Hog Production Costs (cont'd)

Capital costs, interest and machinery operating costs are now the prime factors that have to be considered in planning and operating a successful hog enterprise. With an input cost increase from 1972-79 of only 186 per cent, labor now becomes an increasing factor in cost savings, and high capital cost "labor saving" systems become more difficult to justify from a purely financial point of view.

In Europe, including the United Kingdom, there is already a reflection of this cost trend, in the form of more use being made of natural ventilation systems and hand labor. Will this trend be reflected in Alberta's swine units? At least two units in southern Alberta have already been developed with completely natural ventilation systems, and they appear to be working satisfactorily. Undoubtedly, further developments on these lines will be forthcoming in the future.

Incidentally, the labor-intensive systems used in Europe show production figures well above what we can show. The benefits are more than just savings of capital cost. They enhance the bottom line profits by better total production, which is what every producer is striving for.

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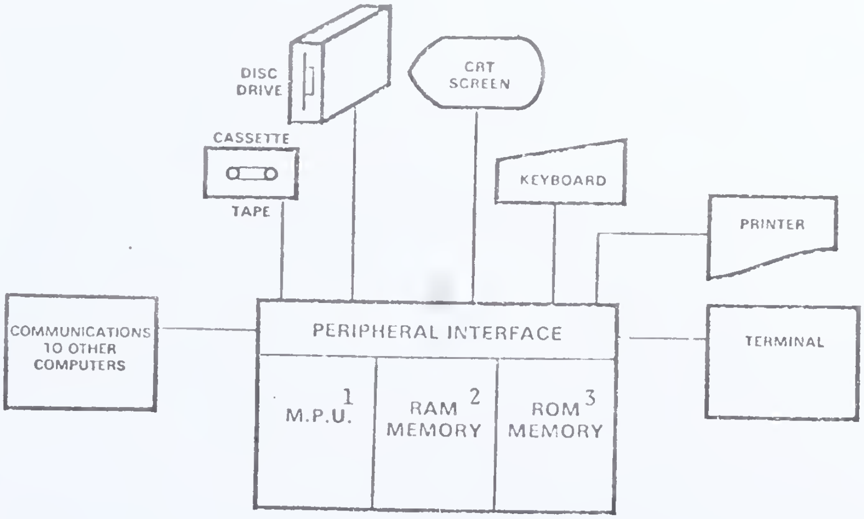
February 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM COMPUTERS



1. Micro Processing Unit - does all the mathematical work.
2. Random Access Memory - temporary storage.
3. Read Only Memory - permanent storage.

Are you wondering whether you should get a farm computer? It is now possible to get one that is about the size of a typewriter and costs around $1,000.

According to Alberta Agriculture, you should never buy a computer because you think it might be useful. You should first assess your managerial approach to your business and the farm records you normally keep, and you should ask yourself the following questions:

- Am I one who likes to take risks and who enjoys experimenting with new approaches?
- Am I number or quantitively oriented? A computer can help with numerical planning and control if you have that type of information available. If, however, your style of management is very casual, unstructured and tends to rely

- (cont'd) -

upon informal channels of information, a computer based system may not be very beneficial to you.

- Am I patient enough to wait for several months before the benefits of my purchase become apparent? You may get some results immediately, but, as a general rule, computer systems start out by being bothersome.

A computer can be used for keeping financial and physical records. It can store all cheque and receipt transactions from which tax reports and up to-date cash flow reports can be obtained. Loans and mortgages plus asset information can be recorded to give a complete balance sheet. Accounts receivable and payable and payroll information can also be included in the system.

The physical record keeping aspect of the computer can be useful to farmers who have livestock enterprises. Breeding records, herd health information and such things as ROP data can be computerized to facilitate culling or selection for future breeding programs. Anyone who does custom feeding can combine the financial and physical record keeping components (lot accounting) to find his true costs and charges.

There are also some administrative and planning functions which can be improved by a computer. It can, for example, be used to formulate a feedmix program that is based on your own feeds.

Some futuristic but technically feasible computer uses are: to receive up-to-date marketing information over telephone lines that use the computer as a terminal; as a weather monitoring station; to record the whereabouts of animals that have magnetically coded eartags and for reporting use and wear data on farm machinery to a maintenance scheduling program.

If you are seriously thinking of getting a computer never do so because you hate keeping records. You will be involved in even more records if you have a computer, and,

- (cont'd) -

Farm Computers (cont'd)

remember that since a computer must receive its information through its keyboard, it will take time to transmit and store the information. If you already have a full-time person doing your records, a computer system could be beneficial. Also, the lower the price you pay for your computer, the more programming you will have to do yourself. The more self-contained and customized the system is, the more it is going to cost because somebody else has had to do the programming. Above all, remember that a computer is not a "business doctor", it is only another tool to be used by an already skillful manager.

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February 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACCENT 81

Prepare for your new crop year by registering today for Accent 81. Accent 81 is an outlook conference for farmers on grain and oilseeds market prospects, which will be held at the Convention Inn South in Edmonton on March 16 and 17.

Sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, it is designed to help you with your seeding and marketing decisions and to bring you up-to-date on prospects for the grain industry in 1981.

Speakers from across Canada and from the United States and Europe will give situation and outlook material on the world and domestic scenes for wheat, malting barley, feed grains and oilseeds.

Other topics on the agenda are:

- Prospects for Interest Rates
- Canadian Grain Transportation and Handling
- Issues of Concern to the Agricultural Community

There are three conference plans from which you can choose.

Plan A costs $50 and covers the conference, the banquet on March 16, other meals and a copy of the proceedings.

Plan B costs $20 and covers the conference and a copy of the proceedings – no meals.

Plan C costs $10 and entitles you to a copy of the proceedings only. These will be mailed out to you.

- (cont'd) -

Accent 81 (cont'd)

Prospective participants are asked to register as soon as possible because there is a limit of 350 people for meals and of 500 for the sessions. The deadline for receipt of registrations is March 9.

Registrations should be accompanied by a cheque payable to the Provincial Treasurer and sent to the Market Analysis Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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February 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS NOT THE ANSWER

by Suzanne Tenold
Alberta Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Specialist, Airdrie

Unless a vitamin or mineral deficiency actually exists, adding vitamins and/or mineral supplements to the diet will not benefit the body. It will only be an extra expense on the pocketbook!

Canadians spend millions of dollars every year on vitamins and mineral supplements in the hope of either combatting or avoiding a wide range of health problems which could develop.

Advertising often leaves the consumer with a distorted view of the role that vitamins and minerals play in the maintenance of good health, not to mention arousing a latent insecurity about one's own attempts at selecting a balanced diet. Certainly vitamins and minerals are essential to good health, but only in specific amounts. Those not used are either stored or eliminated.

An excessive intake of the vitamins that are stored in the body can lead to hazardous health conditions, and they can interfere with the proper utilization of other nutrients in the diet by disrupting the metabolic balance, which is so important for efficient digestion and the absorption process.

Many vitamin and mineral preprations are sold as an extra insurance or as a method of helping the body to cope with all the unknowns of today's lifestyle whether they be alcohol consumption, contraception, smoking or generally poor eating habits. Because people feel protected by consuming these supplements, they continue to enjoy life as they please instead of changing their lifestyles. In fact, poor eating habits are almost encouraged

- (cont'd) -

Dietary Supplements Not The Answer (cont'd)

because the benefits of a balanced diet and careful food selection are not introduced. Such an approach will certainly not help to improve the public's knowledge of how to choose food wisely and, thus, to get the most nutritional value for their food dollar.

Food from the four groups, suggested in Canada's Food Guide will provide all the necessary nutrients the body requires, providing they are properly selected, prepared and eaten in adequate amounts.

Becoming aware of various foods and the nutrients they provide can help an individual to select valuable high nutrient food items for the diet to meet specific needs.

The people who advise the use of supplemental vitamins are usually the people who sell them, and their motive often becomes financial self-interest; not a concern for the good health of the public. Only a physician or qualified dietitian can advise on a person's need for supplemental or therapeutic doses of nutrient supplements.

Self-diagnosis can prove dangerous and costly!

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February 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HORTICULTURAL EXTENSION OFFICER APPOINTED

G.D. Grainger, head of Alberta Agriculture's provincial tree nursery, has announced the appointment of Betty Vladicka to the position of horticultural liaison officer.

Mrs. Vladicka was born in Redwater and raised on a mixed farm. She graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1976, having majored in horticulture.

Mrs. Vladicka was awarded the Alberta Horticultural Association's prize for excellence in horticultural studies in 1974 and the Western Canadian Society of Horticulture's silver medal for horticulture and the Frank E. Coats memorial prize when she graduated.

From 1977 until her present appointment, she worked as an extension officer with the City of Edmonton's parks and recreation department.

In her new position at the provincial tree nursery, Mrs. Vladicka will provide advisory services and education programs for both amateur and commercial horticulturists

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February 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOME ECONOMISTS APPOINTED

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointment of Barbara Bzouy to the position of district home economist at Cardston and the appointment of Joan McArthur to the position of district home economist-in-training at Vegreville.

Shirley Bzouy

Ms. Bzouy grew up on a mixed farm in southeastern Manitoba and attended the University of Manitoba. She graduated with a B.Sc. (home economics) in 1976, having specialized in clothing and foods.

Following graduation, Ms. Bzouy worked with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture's home economics branch. After that she spent three years with a consumer group in Manitoba for the handicapped.

Joan McArthur

Ms. McArthur was raised on a mixed farm in Ontario and attended the University of Guelph in Ontario. She obtained a bachelor of applied science in the family and consumer studies program in 1980.

During the summer of 1978 she worked for the Ontario Youth Secretariat as an information officer. The following summer she was employed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food as a junior agriculturalist regional coordinator.

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AGRI-NEWS

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February 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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February 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ESTIMATED HOG RETURNS FOR 1980

Estimated cash returns above feed costs for a typical 50-sow farrow-to-finish enterprise in 1980 averaged $28.85 per hog sold.

Lyle Smith of Alberta Agriculture's production economics branch reports that last year's returns above feed costs ranged from a low of $13.27 per hog sold in the second quarter to a high of $39.47 per hog sold in the fourth quarter. He says returns above feed costs in the second quarter were the lowest they have been since the second quarter of 1974 when they averaged $1.47 per hog sold.

At Edmonton 100 index hogs averaged $57.48 per hundredweight dressed in 1980 compared with $64.66 per hundredweight dressed in 1979. The price of 100 index hogs increased from an average of $45.02 per hundredweight dressed in the second quarter to $69.28 in the fourth quarter. Excluding sows and stags, just under 62.5 per cent of the 1,703,590 hogs graded in Alberta in 1980 had an index of 102 or higher compared with 65.5 per cent on the national scene.

Feed costs in 1980 are estimated at $69.84 per hog raised or 31 per cent higher than they were in 1979, which was up by 12 per cent from 1978. Feed costs in the fourth quarter were estimated at $79.48, representing a 10 per cent increase over the third quarter and a 29 per cent increase over the year-earlier level.

For 1980 total production costs for a 50-sow farrow-to-finish operation were estimated at $118.20 per hog sold. This estimate includes $69.84 for feed; $13.14 for marketing expenses, veterinary expenses, building repairs and other cash outlays; and $35.28 for non-cash

- (cont'd) -

Estimated Hog Returns For 1980 (cont'd)

costs. Non-cash costs include an estimate for the operator's labor, an interest charge on investment and a depreciation allowance based on an estimated capital investment allocated to the farrow-to-finish enterprise of $2,410 per sow. Total production costs in the fourth quarter of 1980 were estimated at $129.33 per hog sold. This estimate included $79.48 for feed, $13.67 for cash costs and $36.18 for non-cash costs.

A 50-sow farrow-to-finish enterprise was chosen as a basis of the above estimated costs because it was felt that it was representative of a large proportion of hog operations in Alberta. It is recognized that size of operation, degree of mechanization and age of an enterprise all have a bearing on the cost of raising hogs.

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February 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR FORECAST

Many centres in northern and central Alberta will be plagued again this year by heavy infestations of forest tent caterpillars.

This is the opinion of scientists at the Northern Forest Research Centre of the Canadian Forestry Service of Environment Canada who carried out an egg band survey towards the end of last year. The survey involved counting the number of egg bands around the small branches of three randomly selected poplars at each of 80 sample sites.

The survey results indicate that caterpillar infestations will be severe west of Edmonton from Ponoka in the south to Athabasca in the north and in a few locations east of Edmonton. These include Mundare, Boyle and Grande Centre on the Saskatchewan border. The survey also indicates severe infestations in the Peace River region as far south as High Prairie. Although the weather and the presence of certain parasites and diseases could change the forecast situation, they are not expected to do so.

The present caterpillar outbreak, which has lasted for five to seven years, depending upon the area, was expected to have ended before now, but it still shows no signs of letting up. However, in the past, such outbreaks have literally disappeared from one year to the next, and there is no reason to believe that this one will not eventually do the same.

Does the defoliation of trees that has taken place for several years in a number of areas hurt the trees? Research data shows that continued defoliation from year to year can cause branch dieback and leave the trees more susceptible to disease, but that native poplar stands will not sustain any permanent damage. The main problems encountered are unsightly trees and masses of caterpillars falling from the branches and crawling over everything in sight.

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Forest Tent Caterpillar Forecast (cont'd)

Michael Dolinski, entomologist and pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture, reports that residents in a number of subdivisions west of Edmonton organized aircraft spraying programs last year to control the caterpillars. He points out that spraying will only control them for one season because the moths will fly in from other areas. Although he does not recommend spraying, he says that people who plan to spray this year should make sure that the spraying is done as soon as the eggs have hatched and before any defoliation of the trees has taken place. He also says that those organizing the spraying should obtain written permission to have the area sprayed from everyone who owns property in it.

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February 23, 1981

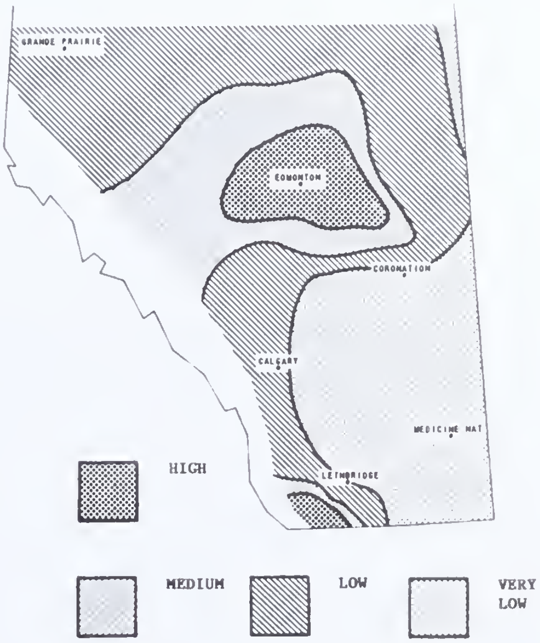
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOIL MOISTURE RESERVES CRITICAL IN SOUTHEASTERN ALBERTA

Soil moisture reserves in southeastern Alberta are well above normal at the present time. However, reserves in most other parts of the province are good to reasonably good.

Conrad Gietz, agrometeorologist with Alberta Agriculture, explains that soil moisture reserves are vital in the southeastern part of the province because rainfall during the growing season is limited. When moisture reserves are not adequate in this area, recropping dryland stubble becomes risky. Where crops are planted it may be necessary to adjust fertilizer recommendations.

ESTIMATED MOISTURE RESERVES
NOVEMBER, 1980



Mr. Gietz says if moisture reserves do not improve in southeastern Alberta between now and seeding time, many farmers might be wise to consider alternatives to their normal cropping pattern. He points out, however, that the situation could improve in time to benefit spring seeded crops as was the case last year in much of the same area.

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February 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RING ROT BACTERIA RESEARCH

Studies carried out at the federal research station at Lethbridge have shown that ring rot bacteria in potatoes are not killed by freezing temperatures as many people believe.

For example, the survival rate of ring rot bacteria was 10 months on wool, leather, burlap concrete, kraft paper, plastic and plywood surfaces in an unheated machine shed where sharp freezing temperatures prevailed during some of the 10 - month storage period. The bacteria survived seven months on blue denim and less than four months on steel surfaces.

The survival rate in a root cellar where the temperature did not go below freezing was found to be 10 months on burlap but only seven months on concrete, kraft paper, plastic and plywood surfaces.

Other studies showed that ring rot bacteria survive longer in soils at freezing temperatures, particularly when they are dry, than in warmer soils. It was found that the bacteria quickly became inactive in warm, moist soils.

Recent studies at the Lethbridge research station have shown that ring rot bacteria will persist for as long as 14 months on burlap, kraft paper, plastic and plywood stored at a relative humidity of 10 per cent and at temperatures of 5° or 20° C. Under very humid conditions, the survival time was generally less than seven months.

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Ring Rot Bacteria Research (cont'd)

Because of the lengthy survival of ring rot bacteria on many surfaces, the scientists at Lethbridge believe that the disease can be best controlled by a rigorous sanitation program. This means that all storage surfaces, handling equipment, clothing and machinery should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfested with a suitable disinfesting agent like chlorine, quaternary ammonium compounds, formalin, etc. Because the length of time the disinfestant agent has to act and its concentration are both critical, users should follow label directions carefully or consult their district agriculturist.

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February 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUGAR SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

The price of sugar on world markets is now almost double what it was at this time last year.

According to Alberta Agriculture's market analyst, Bob Prather, a significant reduction in world sugar production relative to consumption in 1979-80 and prospects of a further shortfall of almost 4 million tonnes in 1980-81 have provided strong support for prevailing prices. He says such key producing countries as the U.S.S.R., Brazil, Cuba, India, Thailand, China and Mexico have been mainly responsible for the current shortfall. The U.S.S.R. has been forced to buy free market sugar to offset the loss of previous supplies from Cuba.

Mr. Prather foresees only a slight increase in world consumption in 1980-81. He believes that decreases in consumption in the more developed countries will be offset by increases in consumption in the developing countries.

Overall caloric sweetner use has not been significantly reduced in Japan or the United States, both of which are major importers of sugar, but the sugar component has been replaced to a considerable extent by additional use of corn sweetner. For example, the overall per capita caloric sweetner consumption in the United States in 1980 was 58.8 kg versus 58.4 kg in 1978, but the per capita consumption of corn sweetner increased from 15.6 kg to 18.6 kg during that period.

Competitive corn prices relative to cane and beet sugar and the increased availability of corn sweetner have been the main factors behind this development. Mr. Prather says that recent projections put the per capita consumption of corn sweetner in the United States in 1985 at 28.2 kg or almost 48 per cent of the projected American caloric sweetner consumption.

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Sugar Situation And Outlook (cont'd)

A decrease in world sugar carryover stocks in 1980-81 to just under 25 per cent of consumption will result in average world prices in 1980-81 that are well above the 9.9¢ (U.S.) per kg recorded in 1979-80. Mr. Prather says "It is now apparent that this underlaying strength will continue into the 1981-82 crop year. In fact, if consumption levels are relatively consistent over the next few years, it will take two successive crops approaching the record 1978-79 level to significantly change the supply/demand balance."

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February 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAPESEED/CANOLA OUTLOOK

Rapeseed/canola prices are expected to remain near their current level until late March at which time they could begin to improve if there is evidence of an improved demand and if American and Canadian farmers cut this year's oilseed acreage.

Statistics Canada's November estimate places Canada's 1980 rapeseed/canola crop at 2.5 million tonnes, which would be 27 per cent lower than the 1979 crop. Alberta's 1980 crop is estimated to be 1.13 million tonnes, representing a decrease of 0.3 million tonnes compared with 1979.

Total 1980-81 rapeseed/canola supplies are estimated at 3.96 million tonnes or 12 per cent below their 1979-80 level. Exports for the 1980-81 crop year are expected to be around 1.45 million tonnes, while the domestic crush is expected to account for approximately one million tonnes. Hence, carryover stocks are forecast to be a somewhat burdensome 1.1 million tonnes.

Alberta Agriculture's market analyst, Les Lyster, expects Alberta farmers to reduce their 1981 rapeseed/canola acreage by as much as 20 per cent compared with the 1980 acreage. Assuming an average yield, this means that the 1981 rapeseed/canola crop could be around 2 million tonnes.

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February 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAMB OUTLOOK

Alberta lamb prices in the first quarter of this year are expected to be in the mid $60 to the low $70 per hundredweight range on a liveweight basis. Prices are not expected to go higher than this because of relatively large supplies of both beef and pork.

Last year was a good year for Alberta in terms of growth with the inspected slaughter rising to 39,204 head from 33,379 head in 1979. This 17 per cent increase in slaughter continued the upswing in supply that began in 1979, and Alberta continued to account for 30 per cent of the Canadian inspected sheep and lamb slaughter.

Carolyn Scott, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, says the supply situation in Alberta can be regarded with cautious optimism compared with the slaughter volume declines that have taken place in the last few years. However, high interest rates, large supplies of beef, pork and poultry plus a weak consumer demand all combined to put pressure on prices in 1980. The top of the price range was $75 per hundredweight and it came during the first half of the year. It compared with $82 per hundredweight in the same period in 1979. The second half of 1980 was somewhat better in that prices ranged from $63 to $68 per hundredweight, which was the same level as that achieved in the second half of 1979. However, the market strength that usually starts to build in late December was lacking, and demand continues to be soft in 1981.

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February 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HONEY SITUATION

The price Canadian honey producers average for their 1980 honey crop is expected to be around 73¢ or 10¢ above the price they received for their 1979 crop, and the volume of sales is expected to be about the same as last year. This will reduce the carryover going into the 1981-82 crop year to a normal level.

One of the concerns for the 1981-82 crop year is that production of the higher quality clover honey may be limited because of the large acreage of clover that has been plowed under in response to the exceptionally depressed cover seed market.

Another concern is rapidly rising production costs which seem to be outpacing honey price increases. Bob Prather of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch says that in addition to high sugar prices and their associated costs of overwintering bees in Alberta, package bee prices in the United States are expected to be around $25 (Canadian) delivered here or 20 per cent above last year's prices. He also says that beekeepers' net returns will be under pressure in the coming crop year and higher honey prices will be necessary to maintain the current level of profitability.

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February 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INCOME TAX CHANGE AFFECTS FARM SPOUSES

This year Canadian farmers can, for the first time, deduct wages paid to their spouses as an expense on their income tax returns.

In a Ways and Means motion made on April 21, 1980, it was proposed that all small independent businessmen, including farmers, should be allowed to claim a deduction for wages paid to their spouses, effective January 1, 1980.

Although the bill to enact this change has not yet been passed by Parliament, Revenue Canada Taxation has advised that in light of the anticipated legislation, taxpayers may claim the deduction on their 1980 returns.

This means that a farm wife who has received wages for working part-time or full time must file her own income tax return by April 30, 1981, reporting the wages she has received. It also means that she can now contribute to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP).

Farmers who paid their spouse in 1980 should follow these steps to take advantage of the tax deduction.

. Obtain an employer number from any district taxation office. CPP and income tax tables are also available there.

. Calculate the CPP payments to be made retroactive to January 1, 1980, according to your spouses's earnings from on-farm work. Any amount withheld for CPP purposes must be matched by the employer. The total amount should then be forwarded to Revenue Canada Taxation through any bank (cheques payable to the Receiver General of Canada).

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Income Tax Change Affects Farm Spouses (cont'd)

. Withhold the proper tax from your spouse's earnings and file a T4 information slip reporting the tax and CPP payments to the tax department.

Farmers who did not pay wages to their spouses during 1980 are not eligible for this tax deduction.

Further information on splitting income among family members is outlined in a fact sheet entitled "Tax and the Farm Family" (FS 837-6). It can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's extension offices and from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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February 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOATARAMA SALE

If you raise meat-type goats you will be interested in Goatarama! It is a new sale that will take place at the auction market in Red Deer on April 7.

The organizers are looking for about 2,000 goats that weigh between 30 and 55 pounds for the Easter kid market, and they guarantee a price of $1.40 per pound liveweight. However, prices could go as high as $2.50 per pound and even higher. The goats will be sold in lots at the discretion of auctioneer Doug Lamoreux.

Anyone who plans to sell his or her goats at this sale is asked to weigh the animals at home and to mark them on their right side with a bright red or orange paint according to the following code.

30 - 40 pounds — 1
41 - 50 pounds — 11
51 - 55 pounds — X

All the female goats should be marked with red paint on their left ear and all males marked with red paint on their right ear.

Owners who wish to do so may use some form of personal identification on their animals. They are asked to have them at the sale either late on the evening of April 6 or early in the morning on April 7. Feed and water will be supplied.

The auctioneer's fee will be $4 per head.

For further information on Goatarama contact Brigitte Wooley at the Goat Information Centre in Camrose (Telephone: 672-7372) or Ron Menge at Rimbey (Telephone: 843-6687).

February 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AAAS ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN CALGARY

The Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS) will hold a workshop and its annual meeting in Calgary this year. The location will be the Stampeder Inn and the dates are March 4 and 5.

The workshop, which will be held on March 4, will include such topics as compensation for volunteers and farmers; grants, fairs, bench shows, etc. and the RCMP Crime Watch.

The new business that will be covered at the annual meeting on March 5 will include the election of new directors and a discussion of 1982 AAAS fees.

The registration fee for the two-day event is only $20 per person, and it covers lunch and the banquet on March 4, lunch on March 5 and all coffee breaks. So plan to attend this year!

For further information telephone Margaret Matonovich in Edmonton at 427-2171.

February 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMON QUESTIONS CONCERNING CLOTHING AND TEXTILES

by Debbie Brekke
District Home Economist at Stettler

Here are two common questions that home economists are asked about clothing and textiles — I hope the answers will help.

"I want to lengthen a pair of pants that have been hemmed with a fusible web. How can I do it?"

To change the hemline on pants or skirts that have been hemmed with a product like Stitch Witchery simply press the hem and then pull it away from the main part of the garment while it is still hot. Then remove the fusible web by rubbing the area with a little denatured alcohol on a piece of terry cloth. It is much more effective than rubbing alcohol, which we used for this job in the past, and you can buy it at your drugstore. When you have removed the fusible web, press in the new hemline and secure it with a new strip of fusible web.

"I threw a fabric softner sheet into my dryer with a polyester blouse. Now the blouse has spots on it. What can I do to remove them?"

These spots can be easily removed by dampening the fabric and then rubbing it with a mild soap like Ivory Liquid or Ivory Snow and relaundering the garment.

Joyce Arthur, consumer consultant with Proctor and Gamble, says it is their conviction that fabric softener sheets are perfectly safe for all fabrics if the dryer is functioning at the right heat setting.

Spotting can be caused by two or three factors. The first relates to the heat buildup in the dryer. This occurs if the dryer is developing more heat than it should when on

- (cont'd) -

Common Questions Concerning Clothing And Textiles (cont'd)

a low heat setting. As a dryer ages, the problem becomes more common than you might think. Too much heat can also occur if a regular heat cycle has been used just prior to a low heat cycle, and the heat buildup in the drum has not dissipated sufficiently. Another cause of spotting is overdrying, particularly with small loads where only two or three garments continue to tumble with warm air long after they are dry. Excessive heat or overdrying in combination with some types of synthetic or perma-press fabrics can cause translucent spots to appear. We have found these problems are more prevalent with fabrics that have a smooth or silky finish as opposed to those that are coarsely woven.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

MAR 26 1981

March 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA HORSES GOING TO TOP INTERNATIONAL SHOW

Alberta will be represented at West Germany's world-famous Equitana Horse Show in Essen by eight horses. The show is scheduled for March 11-16, and this will be the first time that a Canadian province has participated in this bi-annual event, which draws the top horses from both eastern and western Europe and the United States.

Isa Rebob Sugar – one of the eight horses from the Calgary area that is going to the Equitana Horse Show in West Germany.

The Alberta horses, which will consist of three Appaloosas, three Quarter horses and two Arabians, have been entered in the show to demonstrate the high calibre of horses being raised in this province. They will not be competing against the other entries, but will be shown to large audiences at the afternoon and evening performances. They will be kept in open boxes in the Canadian display area.

The horses, all very well trained, are expected to attract a lot of attention because of the keen interest that a number of affluent western European countries have developed in western pleasure horses. It is hoped that their presence at the show will generate sales.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta Horses Going To Top International Show (cont'd)

Europe has stiff regulations regarding the importation of horses. However, the delegation of German government officials and horse association representatives that visited Alberta last summer were reportedly very pleased with what they saw.

The Appaloosas and Quarter horses were nominated for the show by their respective breed associations. The Arabian horses are being sent by Dr. George Allen, a breeder in the Taber area and the Alberta chairman of the World Arabian Horse Organization. The organization plans to hold its 1982 international conference in Calgary.

The Alberta horses will be trucked to Toronto and then flown to Amsterdam where they will be met and transported by truck to Essen. Alberta does not have a direct airfreight service for live animals to Europe. After the show, the Appaloosas and the Quarter horses will be sold privately, but the two Arabians will be brought back to Canada.

Another local participant in the show will be Canada Trading Import-Export Ltd. of Edmonton. Its representatives will be there to promote the sale of Alberta-made western riding clothes and all types of western pleasure riding equipment including saddles.

Alberta's participation in Equitana was made possible by the joint efforts of the federal government, the international marketing sector of Alberta Agriculture, the Appaloosa Breeders Association, the Alberta Quarter Horse Association, Dr. Allen and Canada Trading Import-Export Ltd.

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March 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG MARKETING REVIEW COMMITTEE

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Dallas W. Schmidt, has announced the release of the Alberta Hog Marketing Review Committee Report. It was commissioned by the minister in March, 1980, after a long period of difficulties within the hog industry.

The minister appointed a four member Alberta Hog Marketing Review Committee, headed by former Alberta Attorney General, Jim Foster, to investigate all aspects of the province's hog production and marketing. Jim Christie, a pork producer from the Trochu region, Dan Giebelhaus, vice-chairman of the Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board (APPMB), and Leon Ferguson, general manager of the Edmonton plant of Swift's Canadian Ltd., completed the committee.

"The review is a brief but quite thorough analysis of the various elements comprising the current Alberta hog marketing system," Mr. Schmidt said of the 72 page report.

The Review Committee began its investigations with public hearings across the province in April, and these were followed in late May and June by more formal sessions in Edmonton. The committee received more than 150 briefs and conducted more than 100 hours of public hearings during the three-month period. The 23 recommendations contained in the report relate to every aspect and participant in the hog marketing system.

"We are reviewing the recommendations very closely with the ultimate objective of smoothing out the concerns and difficulties that have plagued the hog industry in the past," the minister said.

One focus of the report concerned the events and trends in the industry over the past two decades. "A study of these trends, I believe, is relevant to understanding how the hog

- (cont'd) -

industry ultimately entered the state of turmoil it reached a year ago,'' the minister said.

Significant time was also spent describing the roles played by major participants in the hog sector. These participants were the APPMB, which includes Alberta hog producers, the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council, Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Meat Packers.

''The process of each group striving to meet goals and depending for success on the cooperation of the other participants comes out quite clearly,'' Mr. Schmidt said. ''What we wanted to know was why this process broke down.''

Mr. Schmidt also said he was pleased to note the committee, in addition to addressing the mechanics of the selling system, spent some time looking into the significance of the retail market to packer operations. He thinks this component has not received enough study in the past.

''I believe the Hog Review Committee deserves credit for the time it has spent in researching and preparing its report,'' the minister said. ''The recommendations made were well thought out. We are now considering further courses of action based on the recommendations made, and, while I do not expect a major revamping overnight, I do foresee definite future changes in policy and programs resulting from this study and our consideration of its findings. Most important is that whatever we do, it should in the end, benefit the entire industry.''

Free copies of the Alberta Hog Marketing Review Committee Report can be obtained from the Planning and Research Secretariat, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

March 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WILL LEND $ 165 MILLION TO FARMERS

The Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) lent $130.8 million to 965 farmers in the first three-quarters of the present fiscal year which ends on March 31.

A crown corporation with its head office in Camrose, ADC provides long-term mortgage financing to Alberta farmers. A new record level of lending was attained in the most recent quarter of the fiscal year with $51.3 million being provided to 370 farmers. Of this amount more than 80 per cent ($43.3 million) was lent to over 300 beginning farmers. So far this fiscal year, 735 new farmers have entered agriculture as a result of ADC's assistance, which has averaged $143,300 per applicant.

The beginning farmer program was expanded in April, 1980, which resulted in a massive increase in ADC's application activity and a delay in processing. Since this backlog has now been reduced, in most cases a person can receive a loan of up to a $200,000 in only two months to enter the farming profession. In the case of an individual who has only minimal experience in farming, unknown credit handling ability (due usually to the young age of beginning farmers) and who would not be adequately secured by other lender's standards, this turn-around time is considered very reasonable. ADC provides up to 100 per cent of the financing for land and chattels over the full term of the loan in some instances.

At present ADC has more than $272.3 million outstanding to over 5,100 farmers or approximately 10 per cent of all the farmers in Alberta. It is expected that $165 million will be lent this fiscal year, which will establish ADC as a major influence in farm mortgage lending in Alberta. ADC receives its funding from the Alberta Heritage Savings and Trust Fund.

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March 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRESH VEGETABLE SITUATION AND OUTLOOK IN ALBERTA

by Bob Prather
Market Analyst, Alberta Agriculture

Alberta's vegetable growers obtained average to above average yields last year and higher returns for their crops.

Growers especially benefitted from the impact on prices of reduced vegetable crops in other parts of Canada and in the United States during the last half of 1980. Additional profit margins were provided in local markets by rising transportation costs, the recently improved seasonal tariffs on imports and the protection offered by the discounted Canadian dollar compared with the American dollar. The Canadian consumer price index for fruit and vegetables in Edmonton and Calgary averaged from 6 to 12 per cent higher from September through December than the 1979 index during the same period. It generally reflected the higher prices paid by consumers for both domestic and imported produce.

Alberta vegetable marketings, both direct and from storage, generally exceeded those recorded in 1979. The main increases were in cabbage, onions, rutabagas, squash and fresh corn. Of the major commercial vegetables produced in Alberta last year, only rutabagas and carrots came close to supplying in-season requirements. Of the major storage vegetables only onions and rutabagas were available in significant quantities after January 1, 1981. The availability of carrots was far below the volume of previous years.

Even with a rapidly growing population base, in-season tariff protection and continually rising transportation cost advantages, Alberta vegetable growers do not appear to have made much progress in expanding their share of the wholesale market. However, in recent years, there has been a substantial increase in the volume of vegetables moved through such direct marketing outlets as pick-your-own, farm gate sales and farmers' markets.

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Fresh Vegetable Situation And Outlook In Alberta (cont'd)

Alberta growers received excellent prices for their produce last fall. Minimum prices set by the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board for Canada No.1 produce were above those received for the province's main vegetable crops in 1979. Prices for produce marketed through direct sales were reported to be generally above those in 1979 and in line with wholesale price increases. The value of Alberta's 1980 fresh vegetable crops was more than $5 million.

As the population and overall demand for fresh vegetables continues to increase in Alberta, so will the demand for good quality local produce. At the present time provincial growers supply only a limited portion of the potential market in Alberta. However, an increase in the planted acreage of storage vegetables, an increase in storage capacity and an increase in greenhouse production are expected to lead to a larger volume of Alberta fresh produce entering the market place.

There is some question as to how far this expansion can go and still remain profitable to producers, given recent price levels and rapidly rising production costs. It is possible that the more than $40 million worth of fresh produce that was brought into Alberta in 1980 could have been produced here. Developments in competing areas of Canada and the United States will be very important to any progress in the expansion of Alberta's market share.

March 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEMEN EVALUATION POLICY

There has been an increase during the past few months in the number of semen samples arriving in Alberta Agriculture's Semen Evaluation Laboratory in Airdrie.

Samples submitted to the laboratory are examined for spermatozoa motility rate, number of motile spermatozoa per sample, percentage of intact acrosomes and morphology (per cent of abnormal spermatozoa). These tests are a good indicator of the fertilizing capability of the sperm and are particularly useful when non-return data is unavailable from the field.

The reason for the increase in the number of semen samples being sent to the laboratory seems to be the greater desire on the part of bull stud owners to use the laboratory for a second opinion. By having the semen checked there before it is sold, they are able to ensure purchasers of semen that meets the quality standards.

While the laboratory's first priority is the bull studs, its staff also evaluates straws and vials that are submitted by inseminating businesses and from private herd tanks.

All these samples must be kept in liquid nitrogen and accompanied by the following information.

- Breed
- Sire code
- Freeze date of straw or vial
- The reason the evaluation is being requested.

The laboratory, which recently moved to the Regional Agricultural Building in Airdrie, can now provide greatly improved service to bull studs and to the insemination industry because of its new facilities and equipment. The address is:

Semen Evaluation Laboratory
Bag Service No.1
Airdrie, TOM OBO. (Telephone:948-5101)

March 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE GOOD NEIGHBORS POLICY STILL EXISTS IN ALBERTA

Neighbors still help neighbors in Alberta! This might be hard to believe in these days when so many of the new stories seem to portray a dog-eat-dog society, but it did happen recently to a dairy farmer in the Sundre area.

It appears that Otto Seidel had just completed a new dairy barn when the disaster struck. He was due to commence his milking operations in two days' time when his new barn burned to the ground. The farmer from whom Mr. Seidel had bought his dairy herd was unable to keep the cows until the barn could be rebuilt so six of his neighbors stepped in to help. They offered to take all the cows between them and to keep them for Mr. Seidel until he was able to rebuild his barn. These thoughtful and generous neighbors were Albert Sailer of James River, Henry Schmeimann of James River, Joe Feddema of James River, Bruce Beattie of Sundre, Eric Grunau of Sundre and Karl Laurich of Caroline.

It was three weeks before Mr. Seidel was allowed to clear the debris from the site of the fire. However, once he got the go ahead, he and 20 neighbors accomplished the job in one day. These same neighbors then helped him to construct the frame for a new barn, close it in and shingle the roof. This part of the operation was completed in only seven days. A number of the local school children then appeared to paint the barn.

The first milking took place just eight weeks after the tragedy, which could never have happened without the help of these caring people. Both Henry Schmeimann and Albert Sailer put a great deal of time and effort into rebuilding Mr. Seidel's dairy barn.

Still other neighbors who were not able to help with the rebuilding of the barn anonymously presented the Seidel family with a huge parcel of groceries. Who says that the good neighbor policy that helped to open up this country is dead!

– Submitted by Geoff May, Dairy Fieldman, Alberta Agriculture

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March 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW SHEEP TEST STATION

Sheep entered in the 1981 Alberta Sheep Test Program will never have had it so good! They will be housed in the new test station, which is located on the Olds College campus in Olds.

Basically the facility consists of an open front shed (96′ x 24′) with attached pens (12′ x 30′). In design and quality no effort was spared to make it ideal both for the animals and the staff who will be looking after them. Self-feeders for hay, automatic waterers, adequate space under cover for handling the animals, drop fronts for the shed, easy access for pen cleaning and feeding equipment and concrete in heavy traffic areas are all incorporated.

The new facility can hold 200 head of sheep and is incorporated in the plan for a whole new sheep area on the college campus. It is located just east of the dairy, near the artificial insemination pens.

Sheep breeders are welcome to drop in and see the test station any time. Those interested in participating in this year's test program are urged to contact Don Scheer (phone: 427-5077) in Edmonton or Tig Shafto in Calgary (phone:948-5101).

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March 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALFALFA SEED AND LEAFCUTTER BEE WORKSHOP

An alfalfa seed and leafcutter bee production workshop for beginners will be held at Olds College from March 31 to April 2.

The workshop is designed for central Alberta farmers who have a genuine interest in learning about alfalfa seed production and management as well as in obtaining information about the production of leafcutter bees.

The following topics will be on the agenda.

- Alfalfa Seed Culture
- The Canada Seeds Act
- Harvesting, Storing and Processing of Seed
- Diseases and Weed Control
- Leafcutter Bee Biology, Equipment and Management
- The Marketing of Seed and Bees
- Workshops on Insect and Weed Identification
- Integrated Pest Management
- Cocoon Testing Centre
- Production Costs and Marketing

There will also be a panel discussion on the future of the alfalfa seed and leafcutter bee industries and displays put on by seed companies, pesticide chemical companies and leafcutter bee equipment suppliers.

Upon completion of the workshop, all students will be given extensive material on the topics covered during the workshop and a list of people connected with the leafcutter bee industry.

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Alfalfa Seed And Leafcutter Bee Workshop (cont'd)

The fee of $85 includes tuition, the handout material, lab materials and coffee.

Anyone planning to participate in the alfalfa seed and leafcutter bee production workshop is asked to pre-register by March25. Enrolment is limited to 45.

Accommodation is available in the college residence. The cost is $42.15 per person which includes lunch on March 31, April 1 and April 2.

Registrations, accompanied by a $30 non-refundable deposit, made payable to Olds College, should be sent to the Department of Continuing Education, Olds College, Olds, TOM 1PO.

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CORRECTION

The first sentence in the article entitled "Soil Moisture Reserves Critical in Southeastern Alberta" (February 23 issue of Agri-News) should read: Soil moisture reserves in southeastern Alberta are well below normal at the present time; NOT well above normal as stated.

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March 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

Alberta Agriculture Minister, Dallas Schmidt, has announced that nominations are again being accepted for the Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame. The deadline for their acceptance is April 30, 1981.

Albertans who have made important contributions to the development of agriculture in Alberta, Canada or on the international scene, and who hold Canadian citizenship, are eligible for nomination.

"Recognition in the Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame is the highest honor Alberta agriculture can bestow on an individual," says Mr. Schmidt.

Nomination forms are available from district extension offices throughout the province and from the Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame, 9th Floor, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8. The forms are designed to help those making the nominations to provide supporting evidence for the individual's contributions to agriculture.

Service is the basic qualification for inclusion in the hall of fame. A life of dedication to the betterment of agriculture has distinguished each person chosen in past years. Professional or voluntary involvement in farming or rural life will be considered by the selection committee if the nominee has made an outstanding contribution in his or her specialty.

The committee will give preference to people associated with the practical aspects of agriculture, including farming and ranching. However, agricultural business people, professional agrologists and rural community workers will also be considered.

Selection of men and women to be named to the hall of fame is made by a committee representing farmers and farm wives.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta Agricultural Hall Of Fame Nominations (cont'd)

Since its establishment in 1951, the Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame has honored 48 men and women for outstanding contributions to farming, ranching and the quality of rural life. Their portraits and a description of their accomplishments can be seen at the Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame display, located on the main floor of the provincial museum in Edmonton.

Men and women selected for the Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame in 1981 will be honored at a banquet and ceremony during Agriculture Week in the latter part of October.

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March 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF FAMILY LIFE IN ALBERTA

The University of Alberta will be sponsoring a conference on "Improving the Quality of Family Life in Alberta" on the evenings of April 24 and 25.

Speakers will include David King, minister of Education; Bob Bogle, minister of Social Services and Community Health; Dr. David Skelton, chairman of the Division of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Alberta; Father Bill Irwin, director of Catholic School Services; and Professor Christine Davies, professor of Family Law at the University of Alberta.

The agenda will include workshops on improving the family relationships of married couples, older families, children and parents and children as well as presentations on current research related to the Alberta family.

There will also be working sessions lead by Dr. Lyle Larson, professor of sociology at the University of Alberta, to develop family policy recommendations.

The conference will be held in the Humanities Building on the University of Alberta campus and the fee is $40, which includes refreshments and Saturday lunch.

Further information can be obtained from Dr. Norah Keating, 801 General Services Building, University of Alberta, Edmonton T6G 2E2 (Telephone: 432-4191) or from Barbara Wheatley at the same address. Her telephone number is 432-5771.

March 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE DANGER IN "DO-IT-YOURSELF" PROJECTS

There are inherent dangers in "do-it-yourself" projects around the home which could change any such endeavour in a "do-IN-yourself" (or your family) project.

The Home Safety Committee of the Alberta Safety Council is probably more aware of the hazards connected with "do-it-yourself" projects than the average home owner because of the large number of "hair-raising" incidents which come to the attention of any safety group. The committee uses the following new article to point out a few of the hazards which may be encountered by an unsuspecting "do-it-yourselfer".

While attempting to remodel their older home, a young couple created many new hazards through lack of training, expertise and research. They began by tearing out all the interior walls, except those enclosing the bathroom, to "open up" the house and provide a feeling of spaciousness. They were lucky that the roof did not cave in on them when they removed the support walls.

Opening up the living area like that creates a space in which an accidental fire could easily involve the whole structure in a minimum amount of time. Fire or smoke detectors would not help much here because there were no bedroom doors to close, as recommended by experts.

The ceilings were sprayed with polyurethane foam to give a textured appearance. Unfortunately, the material used was not a fire retardant or fire-inhibiting one!

The kitchen floor was raised high enough to require two steps to enter or leave the kitchen, and no handrails were provided to warn of the change of level or to help in climbing the steps.

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The Danger In "Do-It-Yourself" Projects (cont'd)

Rough-sawn and untreated wood was used to cover many of the more conventional and fire-resistant plaster walls. To add to the potential fuel load, many of these combustible walls were adorned with cloth hangings.

Undoubtedly, this story contains extremes in building and remodelling hazards. Unfortunately, though, this type of misguided activity, usually on a smaller scale, is being repeated every day across the province. Also, the errors being made are not always obvious to the average homeowner, as is the case with stories about people using gasoline to clean their electric washing machine or people who hook up a wire garden fence to their 110 volt house current to keep away stray dogs!

With more people remodelling their homes rather than buying a new home at an exorbitant interest rate, the built-in hazard syndrome is likely to be on the rise. Articles often appear in local newspapers focussing on a special home remodelling project with the result that many other people try a similar project. Very few of these articles urge people to consider the safety aspects when planning or carrying out "do-it-yourself" remodelling jobs.

The Alberta Safety Council's Home Safety Committee urges all would-be "do-it-yourself" home remodellers to thoroughly investigate the safety aspects of their project before carrying it out.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
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March 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

March 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

$1.7 MILLION CANOLA RESEARCH PROPOSED

A proposed $1.7 million research program to be cost-shared by the canola industry and the federal government is currently being reviewed by Agriculture Canada officials following approval by the Canola Council of Canada's executive directors.

The three-year plan drawn up by the canola council's research and technical committee, comprised of scientists and industry senior executives, is aimed at keeping canola ahead of its competitors on the world oilseed market. The canola industry, through levies collected on process and export seed, has offered to provide $767,000 or over 45 per cent of the program funds. Such a large proportion of research support coming from producers, processors and traders of an agricultural commodity is unique in this country.

"The canola industry, through the canola council, has often voiced concern in the past that Canada may be tempted to become complacent about the market edge it now holds with canola/rapeseed," canola council president Jack Smythe said. "There remains a great deal of crop research to be done on a continuing basis because other nations are trying hard to catch up to Canada. The canola industry is anxious to ensure the momentum in this country does not lag."

He noted that an industry-wide organization is best aware of the broad range of research needs and so must have a sizeable input into public research programs. "On the other hand, our industry benefits directly from the successes of research and should be prepared to help pay a portion of the costs," Mr. Smythe said.

Under the research proposal, plant improvement research would be carried out at five institutions under the guidance of widely regarded plant scientists. Money would be directed to the universities of Alberta, Manitoba and Guelph and to designated Agriculture Canada research stations where oilseed scientists are located.

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$1.7 Million Canola Research Proposed (cont'd)

Projects given high priority are those leading to better yielding, faster-maturing varieties, greater disease resistance and varieties designed for particular regions. A higher proportion of oil and protein, low fibre seed and changes in proportions of fatty acids in the oil also rate emphasis.

"All factors are well within reach within the decade if the resources are there for the research," Mr. Smythe said. The canola council president added that "It is absolutely essential that the canola industry participate aggressively in an ambitious plant breeding and crop development program at this time. We must ensure that farmers can grow canola profitably yet be able to offer the oilseed to the world market at competitive prices."

The Canola Council of Canada also co-ordinates research on expanding the uses of canola and rapeseed. A $375,000 grant provided by the federal department of Industry, Trade and Commerce is administered by the council. Agriculture Canada and the government of Alberta also finance research programs and projects that are independent of council participation.

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March 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TREND TOWARDS WARM WATER THAW

by Ernie Maynard
Reproductive Specialist, Alberta Agriculture

When most of the semen was distributed in 1 cm^3 ampules, ice water was the preferred method of thawing. However, since the introduction of 0.5 cm^3 straws in the later 1960's and early 1970's, some controversy has developed over the method of thawing both straws and ampules.

The artificial insemination (AI) industry and research institutions have been examining various thawing temperatures during the past few years without any clear cut answers. There are a number of factors such as the size of the ampules or straws, freezing rate, the type of semen diluting agent and the amount of glycerol in the diluent which have varying effects on the motility and acrosomal maintenance of the thawed semen. Most laboratory results have indicated a definite improvement in semen quality when it is thawed in warm water compared with ice water. Similarly, the use of ice water is much superior to "pocket" or "in cow" thawing of semen.

The Quebec Artificial Insemination Centre recently summarized the replies it received from a questionnaire on thawing methods that it sent to 18 AI centres in Canada and the United States. Of the 14 respondents, 12 use water at a temperature of 37 ° C for a minimum of 20 seconds because they feel that they get less cell damage, better sperm motility and a higher fertility level. The other two respondents are using other thawing methods but are examining the warm water method.

A field trial conducted by the American Breeders Service during the past winter showed very interested results. It involved nearly 16,000 inseminations by 49 AI technicians and compared three methods of thawing. The thawing temperatures varied between 35° C and 37° C, and both cold tap water and ice water were used.

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Trend Towards Warm Water Thaw (cont'd)

While the fertility rate varied according to the inseminator, there was no clear cut advantage in using the warm water thawing method compared with the cold water method. In fact, the non-return rates over a 90-day period were 3.6 to 4.6 percentage points higher for the warm water thawing method than the ice water or cold tap water method.

Although the above results are consistent with most laboratory findings, one of the problems that the AI industry faces is how to determine a practical thawing method that can be readily adapted to farm conditions. A wide-mouthed thermos that has a dial thermometer is available, but many AI technicians and owner-inseminators have suggested that holding the temperature at the 35° C to 37 °C level is too much trouble. They have gone back to using the ice water method.

To overcome this problem two new thermostatically controlled semen thawing boxes have been developed by Ceejay Industries (Box 203 St. Charles, Illinois, 60174, U.S.A.) and the American Breeders Service, Calgary, Alberta.

Ceejay Industries have been advertising a thermostatically controlled thawing box for under $50 US, which has a dial thermometer, while the American Breeders Service has recently announced it will be selling the Cito Thaw Unit in the near future. The unit will be electrically controlled and use solid state electronics. It can be used for thawing both straws and ampules.

Both the above units are available in 110 volt A.C. and the 12 volt D.C. models. Although there is not much data available on them, they would be a good investment from the point view of improving the fertility level in your herd.

March 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENERGY REQUIREMENTS OF AGRICULTURE IN ALBERTA

An assured supply of gasoline and diesel fuel is of immediate concern to Alberta farmers because even a temporary shortage would disrupt food production.

This is one of eight main conclusions contained in a report entitled "Energy Requirements of Agriculture in Alberta". The report was prepared by Jensen Engineering Limited under the direction of Alberta Agriculture and will be presented at the Energy Resources Conservation Board Hearings in Calgary on April 21.

Following is a summary of the other seven conclusions.

. Forecast increases in agricultural output in Alberta within the next 25 years will require nearly 100 per cent more energy if present production technology is used.

. Higher energy prices will have the largest impact upon the most intensive farm production systems. Indirect energy costs in the form of chemicals and machinery are as significant as direct increases in fuel costs.

. The response of farmers to higher energy prices will depend upon the prices they receive for their products and markets. As long as higher returns offset increases in production costs, agricultural output will continue to expand. However, if markets are uncertain, farmers will reduce their use of energy-intensive inputs, particularly fertilizers, with the result that production will drop.

. Opportunities for energy conservation vary greatly from one farm to another. However, an overall energy saving of from 15 to 35 per cent was found to be technically feasible on sample farms without any change in production or lifestyle. The most immediate conservation opportunities are in space-heating and transportation, but research offers major energy savings in crop production through the use of legumes and reduced tillage.

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Energy Requirements of Agriculture in Alberta (cont'd)

. Farmers will substitute one form of energy for another to get technical and economic benefits. Shifts are already taking place from gasoline to diesel fuel for mobile farm equipment and to electricity for stationary equipment. Natural gas is being used for heating.

. The use of solar and wind energy is well suited to the farm environment. Specific situations can be identified for the use of passive solar heating and wind pumping.

. Theoretically, farms in Alberta could become self-sufficient in liquid fuels through the substitution of alcohols and vegetable oils for gasoline and diesel fuel. While the economics of such a substitution are not yet attractive, the concept may warrant further study because of its strategic importance in the case of a temporary fuel shortage.

Copies of "Energy Requirements of Agriculture in Alberta" can be obtained from the Engineering and Home Design Section, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOATARAMA SALE CANCELLED

Goatarama which was to have taken place April [illegible] in Red Deer has been cancelled. The [illegible] of the goat sale were given in the February 23, 1981 Agri-News issue. Editors please note the cancellation of the sale.

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March 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DESIGNING THE ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOUSE

The Northwest Peace Continuing Education Council will be holding a course called "Designing the Energy-Efficient House" at Fairview College in Fairview on March 21 and 22.

The instructors will include Ted Doerr, a carpentry instructor at the college and Rob Dumont of the National Research Council in Saskatoon. The National Research Council co-sponsored the construction of 14 energy conservation houses including the well known one in Regina. The houses make use of double-walled construction techniques, air-to-air heat exchangers, R-40 insulation in the walls and R-60 insulation in the roof. Many of them also incorporate some kind of solar collection system which is backed up by a wood-burning stove. The 14 houses require anywhere from 50 to 90 per cent less energy than a conventional house of the same size.

Following is a list of topics that will be discussed.

- Double-walled housing construction
- Stackwall housing construction
- Dome house construction
- Post and beam construction techniques
- Shutters to conserve heat
- Air-to-air heat exchangers
- Proper insulation techniques
- South-facing houses

On the second day of the course there will be a field trip to look at a double-walled house under construction.

The pre-registration fee is $20. The cheque should be made out to the Northwest Peace Continuing Education Council and sent to Fairview College, Box 3000, Fairview, TOH 1L0.

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March 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANAGING STRESS

by Andy Birch
District Agriculturist, Stettler, Alberta

I recently attended a stress management workshop that was designed to identify various sources of stressors (stress factors), how to cope with them and how to develop an effective time management plan that will counter stress. The speaker was Dr. Roger Cormier, president of Cormier Consultants Ltd. of Fort Saskatchewan.

Stress Defined

Dr. Cormier started out by asking the participants to define stress. Because everyone is different, stress has a different meaning and impact on each person. Cormier emphasized that implicit in the definition are various chemical, physical and mental components. He noted that we cannot be completely free from stress, and that stress is necessary for survival. To be alive is to be stressed. But it is how we react to our stresses that determines whether the impact on us is positive or negative. It was pointed out that how we react to a situation depends upon our perception of it. Do we have control over the situation controlling us? Do we do things because of what others expect? Are our own expectations reasonable and rational? One of the many examples described was household cleaning. Is the cleaning done everyday for fear of someone dropping in unexpectedly? Do you feel uneasy about piling up dinner dishes in the kitchen sink? Do you find yourself asking "What will they think if . . . .?" Cormier says, learn to take care of number one – yourself – first!

The way you think about a situation will affect the outcome. This is where your perception is important because it will influence your behavior, reaction, (positive or negative), and the effect it will have upon you.

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Managing Stress (cont'd)

Stress Factors

Cormier described three different types of stressors. Physical stresses are external sources such as noise, smoke, crowds and other irritants that cause discomfort. The second stressor is social. It involves interactions with the environment such as loss of a loved one, loss of a job, etc. The most serious stressor is psychological. It is the most damaging because it occurs most frequently. Yet it is the one over which we have the greatest control. Psychological stressors involve emotions such as fear, guilt, anxiety, love, hatred, worry, jealousy, greed, etc.

Managing Stress

As a first step in successfully managing stress, Cormier says it is very important that you understand yourself — know your beliefs and feelings, be familiar with your emotions and how you can control them. He lists five ways in which we can cope with stress. One way is through the avoidance of a particular stressor. Evasion or a form of sidestepping is another. This may only be temporarily successful because sooner or later you may have to confront the stressors. Diversion or doing something different may help, but eventually, like evasion, the stressor will reappear. Perhaps the most important way Cormier suggests for managing stress is to be prepared. One should prepare oneself mentally, physically and nutritionally. This involves proper exercise, a balanced diet and a positive attitude. It may involve setting goals, consulting others for assistance, analyzing the situation and rationalizing one's behavior. The final method is to change a "bad" stress into a "good" stress. Look for the opportunity that a situation presents and turn it around to your advantage.

Relaxation Exercises

A technique that can be successful in counteracting an emotional stress response (fear, worry, anxiety, guilt, etc.) is to relax. Although it is preferable that the place be quiet and comfortable, it is not always necessary or possible. A few minutes once or several times a day is all that is required, depending on the situation. This technique involves assuming a

- (cont'd) -

Managing Stress (cont'd)

position that is comfortable, closing your eyes and concentrating on your body muscles — feet, legs, stomach, chest, wrists, arms, shoulders, neck, etc., — and causing them to relax. At the same time concentrate on your breathing as you exhale. We did it and I must admit, like others, I almost fell asleep.

Time Management

Cormier pointed out that there is another source of stress! It is time. Appointments to be kept, things to do, deadlines to meet, hurry here and hurry there. There is a constant fear of being late. Because there are so many different things that need to be done or that we would like to do, there is a conflict. Things compete for our time. This is when it is necessary, Cormier says, to establish goals and then to set priorities as to how and in which time frame they will be done.

As an exercise, we were asked to list in two minutes what their lifetime goals might be. The next two minutes were spent listing how we would spend the next three years of our lives. The third question was somewhat ominous as we were asked to list, also in two minutes, how we would live if we knew we would be struck by lightning in six months time. After we had listed our goals, we then began to "priorize" them. We compiled the top three goals from each list and determined the activity that would be necessary to accomplish a specific goal. After listing the various activities for each of the major goals (lifetime, three years, six months) we determined how much time (eg. five minutes a day) could be spent reaching that goal. If more than five minutes were required, another activity could be selected. The objective of the exercise was to develop a time scheme to help us to use our time effectively.

The workshop concluded with a vivid film on time management, illustrating that we should be forever mindful of our time and use it effectively.

A good book to read on this subject is "Stress Without Distress" by Hans Selye.

March 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SETTING UP A FARM OFFICE

Where do you make your farm business decisions? Do you try to make them on the kitchen table where you have to compete with the television, the preparation of meals or space for the children's homework? Where do you conduct your business with salesmen, consultants or livestock buyers?

Managing a farm requires continual decision making. Decisions can be made by flipping a coin, consulting the stars, or simply guessing; but an accurate, informed, realistic, and reasonable decision must always be based on information. That is where the farm office comes in. Its main purpose is to help you to handle information. Information has no merit in itself; it can only be of benefit if it is used. The idea of a farm office is to ensure that you have the information at your finger tips that you require to make a sound decision.

Another purpose of the farm office is to enable you to cope with the information that you need to comply with government regulations. Handling income tax, employee benefits, licences and insurance is much easier if you have a farm office.

Have you thought of setting up such an office? The initial outlay in effort, time and money will be well worth your while. A new publication entitled "Setting up a Farm Office" (Homedex No.1830-10) includes many ideas that will help you with your project. It can be obtained from district home economists and the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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March 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEWING QUILTED FABRICS

Norma J. Kirkby
District Home Economist, Drumheller

Have you a hankering for a quilted jacket – one of those neat reversible ones that are sold in the stores? If you are like me, you look at those jackets longingly, and then decide enough of this – " I am going to try to make one myself"! Well, the construction is not that difficult.

Most pattern companies market a few patterns that are designed especially for quilted materials. If you don't really care for those you see, you can adapt a pattern you already have to suit your needs. When choosing a pattern, look for one with simple lines, minimum seams and that does not require a lining. If the material you choose is double-faced, don't get a pattern that has darts. Features such as darts automatically mean that the garment cannot be reversed.

When purchasing a fabric, consider its styling. Fabrics that have a one quality face with a tricot backing require facings, but not interfacing. Double-face fabrics are often bound with commercial braid, and, therefore, require no interfacing or facings. Preshrinking the fabric is very important when using quilted materials.

Cutting out is a tricky business – but by concentrating carefully, you should not find it too difficult. Cut all the fabric as a single layer of material. Some pattern companies sell patterns that have pattern pieces which are designated left and right so that the seamstress need not be overly concerned about having two left fronts or two right sleeves! If you have a pattern that does not offer this convenience, why not make your own extra pieces? It is safer than trusting yourself to remember to flip the pattern pieces over when cutting them out.

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Sewing Quilted Fabrics (cont'd)

Before you start to sew your garment, stitch around the pieces to secure the materials and the batting. Use a longer stitch than usual for this operation. Pin the pieces securely before stay stitching, especially if the material is very thick or the lines of quilting are more than an inch apart. Place the pins perpendicular to the direction you plan to sew.

To mark garment pieces make tiny clips (1/8") into the seam allowance to designate notches, fold lines or other significant features. If you are using a pattern that has darts, insert pins to correspond with matching marks on the dart. Never use a dressmaker's carbon and tracing wheels for marking quilted fabrics!

When you start to sew remember these two points. Use a longer than normal stitch length, and you will probably need a looser than normal tension to create a smooth seam.

If your garment is to be reversible, your seams must be properly finished. A good seam finish to use is the flat felled seam. Another one you might use is the strap seam. Strap seams are done as follows. Sew the seam with a 5/8" seam allowance. Trim it to 1/4" seam allowance and press the seam open. Then lay a strip of trim or braid over the seam allowance and top stitch it in place.

If your garment is not intended to be reversible, more traditional sewing methods can be used. Zigzag the seam allowances before sewing them and then press the seams open. If the seams are very bulky, and the quilting allows you to do so, clip out the batting before finishing the seam allowances.

When pressing quilted material remember that the batting is very heat-sensitive and overpressing with a hot iron could bond the batting, thereby causing it to lose its bulk.

To hem a double-face garment, you could use a commercial braid. It is dressy and easy to apply. Be sure to put the wider side of the braid to the underside of the material

- (cont'd) -

Sewing Quilted Fabrics (cont'd)

so that it catches when you sew. It is easier to apply the braid for curved areas if you shape it prior to sewing with a steam iron. Extra wide double-face bias tape works, too, but it does not give as dressy a finish.

To close your garment, choose frogs, buttons, or snaps. You might even like to just let it hang as a channel jacket and close it with a belt when you desire.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1981 GUIDE TO CORN PRODUCTION IN ALBERTA

The 1981 Guide to Corn Production in Alberta contains a list of recommended grain corn and silage corn hybrids for the various corn growing areas in the province and it tells you how to choose the hybrid best suited to your needs and area.

Published by the Alberta Corn Committee, the leaflet also contains a list of seed corn dealers in Alberta and sections on growing corn in this province and on controlling weeds.

Copies of the 1981 Guide to Corn Production in Alberta can be obtained from the Alberta Corn Committee, P.O. Box 822, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 3Z9.

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March 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED TO FAIRVIEW

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointment of Susan Perry to the position of regional home economist at Fairview.

In her new position, Ms. Perry will be responsible for coordinating the programs of nine district home economists from Fort Vermilion to Slave Lake. She will also be a contact person for the regional 4-H specialist.

Ms. Perry was born in Provost and raised on a mixed farm near Metiskow. She was active in 4-H clothing and gardening clubs and was a national 4-H delegate to Ottawa and Toronto in 1968.

Ms. Perry is a graduate of the University of Alberta, having obtained a B.Sc. (home economics) in 1971. She also has a certificate in education (home economics and guidance), which she obtained from the University of Manitoba in 1975.

Following graduation she joined CUSO and spent two years teaching in Jamaica. After obtaining her certificate in education she taught foods and nutrition, clothing and textiles, child development and housing and aging at a high school in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She held that position until her present appointment.

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AGRI-NEWS

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March 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

March 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CADP'S LETHBRIDGE PLANT TO BE REPLACED

In response to a rapidly increasing market, the Central Alberta Dairy Pool's 65-year-old milk processing plant in downtown Lethbridge is going to be replaced by a modern new structure at an estimated cost of $6.5 million.

The decision to build the new plant was made after an offer of $746,480 in development assistance was received under the Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance.

To be located in Churchill Industrial Park, the plant will triple the old plant's capacity and will allow a much larger volume of surplus raw milk to be processed in Lethbridge. At the same time, it will offer a wider variety of high quality Alpha brand products to the plant's southern Alberta consumers.

The Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance is a jointly administered and equally funded program designed to encourage the establishment, expansion or modernization of nutritive processing facilities in rural Alberta.

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March 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRANSMISSIBLE GASTROENTERITIS INCREASING IN SWINE

Transmissible Gastroenteritis (TGE) of swine is on the increase in Alberta.

Dr. M.W. Stone, head of the epidemiology section of Alberta Agriculture's animal health division, reports that about 12 cases were diagnosed at provincial diagnostic laboratories last year compared with three in 1979 and that the disease has been confirmed on at least six premises so far this year.

TGE is caused by a virus and is most severe in pigs that are under two weeks of age. The first sign in baby pigs is vomiting, which is quickly followed by a very thin and watery diarrhea. It will be seen running down the hind legs and tail of a sick animal. Dr. Stone says that the diarrhea tends to thicken and become yellowish as the disease progresses. The piglets become dehydrated and very thirsty. Even though they are getting weaker all the time, they will drink water or attempt to suckle. Their eyes will be sunken and their ears laid back and death usually follows in three to five days.

Although the death rate from TGE can vary, it is generally high, and it may be partly due to chilling which acts as a secondary factor. If any piglets survive, they often remain unthrifty.

Since the incubation period for TGE is 18 to 30 hours after exposure, any diarrhea that occurs during the first day of life of a piglet is very unlikely to be caused by this disease, Dr. Stone says.

Although older pigs may have transient diarrhea and vomit occasionally, they generally recover in a few days. However, nursing sows often have more severe signs which include diarrhea, vomiting, a high fever and greatly reduced milk production. It has been suggested that sows are more seriously affected than other older animals because of their exposure to the virus from their sick and dying offspring.

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Transmissible Gastroenteritis Increasing In Swine (cont'd)

TGE can be suspected on the basis of the above signs, but a definite diagnosis can only be obtained from a laboratory. Although an explosive outbreak of vomiting and diarrhea in pigs that are under three weeks of age is very suspicious, the fluorescent antibody test must be carried out at a laboratory before a definite diagnosis can be made. Dr. Stone says it is essential that a specimen that is submitted to a laboratory be alive and in the very early stage of the disease. He also says that diagnosing the disease in a herd where there are no baby pigs or in a herd where there is some immunity is much more difficult.

There are apparently no drugs on the market to combat the TGE virus, and any treatment that is carried out will only control secondary infections. Losses can be reduced in older litters by keeping the young pigs away from drafts and in a temperature of at least 32° C and by providing them with plenty of fresh , clean water.

Vaccines have been available for a number of years, but up to now they have not been completely safe. They are given to the sow in two injections before she farrows. Dr. Stone reports that a new method of immunizing sows has recently been developed which, hopefully, will not produce any side effects. It involves two oral doses and an injection. In the past it has been difficult to justify vaccination against TGE in Alberta except in exceptional circumstances, because the incidence of the disease has been so low. However, Dr. Stone thinks this policy may have to be re-evaluated if the disease continues to spread at its present rate.

Vaccination is of little value in the face of an outbreak unless the sows are [illegible] more than one building and the disease is confined to one of them. According to Dr. Stone deliberately infecting sows coming up to farrowing time on a farm where there is an outbreak of TGE by feeding them fecal material or chopped up intestines from pigs that have died from the disease has been successful in inducing immunity and is an alternative to vaccinating.

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Transmissible Gastroenteritis Increasing In Swine (cont'd)

He advises swine producers who are planning to purchase breeding stock to try to make sure that there has been no history of vomiting, diarrhea or unusually high death losses in the vendor's herd during the last few weeks. Seedstock herd owners who have experienced an outbreak of TGE should not sell any breeding stock for at least a month after the last sign of the disease, he says. Recent research suggests that the virus is unlikely to be present in any animal, at least at a high level, a month after an outbreak of TGE.

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March 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE USE OF IMPLANTS ON CATTLE

The proper use of implants on suckling calves can be a paying proposition, according to research carried out at the Kansas State University.

A question often asked by cow-calf operators is whether suckling calves that have been implanted will continue to respond to implants during their growing and finishing periods. The Kansas State University researchers say yes. Their answer is based on an experiment they carried out on a group of steer calves which they implanted at birth and every 100 days (four times) until they were slaughtered. Ralgro was the implant used.

When this group of steer calves was compared with a group that had not been implanted, the implanted animals were 83.7 pounds heavier at slaughter. The researchers report that the implanted steers had a weight gain advantage over the non-implanted steers throughout the growing period, but that the most noticeable responses were recorded during the suckling and finishing periods.

The Kansas State University researchers also report that they found no adverse effects on first service conception rates or overall reproductive performance during two years of trials involving yearling heifers that received one Ralgro or one DES implant as suckling calves.

In one of the trials the heifers that had been implanted with DES had a conception rate of 84 per cent compared with 85 per cent for heifers that had not been implanted. The animals that had received one Ralgro implant had a conception rate of 83 per cent. However, it was felt that a second implant during the suckling or weaning period might impair reproductive performance. This information is useful for anyone with implanted heifer calves that he later wants to keep as replacement stock.

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The Use of Implants on Cattle (cont'd)

Although no problems seem to occur in the reproductive performance of heifers that have been implanted once, the researchers do not yet know whether implants have an effect on milk production.

Research has also been carried out at the Kansas State University on bull calves. A group of bull calves were implanted with Ralgro at birth and every 100 days until they were slaughtered at about 15 months of age. The researchers found that implanting very young bull calves severely restricted testicle development and greatly impaired the quality of the animals' semen and sex drive. Obviously it is not a good idea to implant bull calves that are to be used for breeding, but the implantation of bull calves might be a desirable management practice if they were to be fattened for beef.

The implanted bulls in the Kansas State University study were found to have a slightly higher average daily gain than non-implanted bulls, and they had a higher carcass grade when they were slaughtered. The implants also reduced the incidence of riding among the bulls to only about a third of that found in non-implanted animals. This riding or "bulling" activity is one of the major problems encountered in fattening bulls.

In summary, the Kansas researchers found that in general the use of implants on both calves and finishing animals can be a useful tool in improving profits from beef production. They can be used effectively in all stages of growth but should not be used on animals which may be selected for the breeding herd.

Further information on the use of implants on cattle can be obtained from Ross Gould, Livestock Supervisor of Beef Cattle, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

March 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ALBERTA SWINE HERD HEALTH PROGRAM

by C. Schipper, D.V.M.
Alberta Agriculture

The Alberta Swine Herd Health Program, administered by Alberta Agriculture's Preventive Medicine Branch, attempts to serve two types of swine producing operations — seed stock herds and commercial herds.

To qualify as a seed stock producer, a herd must be a farrow-to-finish operation, and all the breeding stock that is sold must be identified. This may be done by tatooing or with eartags. An owner of such a herd is required to keep an adequate set of production records, maintain certain standards of sanitation and practice disease prevention techniques. The chief objective of this program is to assist the owners of seed stock herds to produce and distribute breeding stock with a minimal disease status.

To achieve this objective, four annual herd health visits are carried out by Alberta Agriculture's animal health division veterinarians or by private veterinarians appointed by the division. Diseases of chief concern are atrophic rhinitis (AR), chronic respiratory diseases, enteritis and mange.

Careful visual inspection is required during herd visits to detect clinical evidence of these diseases. A number of heads and lungs are examined periodically by the regional laboratories to determine whether or not AR or pneumonic disease in present subclinically. These specimens are submitted by the packing plants for examination.

There are 58 seed stock herds in the Alberta Swine Herd Health Program at the present time.

Commercial herds have participated in the program for many years. To qualify as a commercial herd, the enterprise must be a farrow-to-finish operation, all the producing sows

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The Alberta Swine Herd Health Program (cont'd)

must be identified and a meaningful production record system should be maintained. Quarterly herd health visits are carried out, mainly by private veterinarians at the expense of the animal health division. These visits are basically advisory in nature, and their purpose is to promote veterinary involvement in swine operations and to improve production efficiency through good disease prevention management.

March 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM MACHINERY COSTS

Since the cost of owning and operating farm machinery is surpassed only by farm land costs as a production input, farmers need to examine very carefully the options of renting, leasing, custom hiring and purchasing farm equipment.

Alberta Agriculture's production economics branch has compiled a publication entitled "Farm Machinery Costs" to help with these decisions and to provide recent information on operating and ownership costs of farm machinery that is commonly used in Western Canada. It is divided into three sections. The first describes the basic factors associated with cost analysis including the concepts of fixed and variable costs.

The second section consists of a sequence of tables which contain retail and hourly costs of all the machines listed. Each cost component can be identified separately in regard to the amount it contributes to the total hourly cost.

This section is intended as a quick reference for farmers who wish to compare the cost of different machine types and sizes; research groups involved in studies concerned with production costs, resource use and comparative advantage; and extension personnel and bank managers who maintain close contact with farmers.

The main purpose of the third section is to show some important applications of costing specific machine operations, efficiencies and performance. It contains tables for determining annual costs of machines which have varying annual use and different years of ownership. Farmers will find this section very useful when making management decisions that involve:

- Projecting fixed and variable costs per acre, per hour and per unit of output over a specific period of time
- Designing complete production systems that take into consideration limitations or requirements of capital and labor

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Farm Machinery Costs (cont'd)

- Purchasing, leasing or renting machinery
- Establishing reasonable charges for custom operations
- Knowing when to trade a machine
- Deciding whether to buy a new or a used machine

Copies of "Farm Machinery Costs" can be obtained from district agriculturists or from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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March 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM PRODUCTION OF FUEL ALCOHOL

Agriculture Canada is offering Canadian farmers a free publication entitled "Farm-Scale Production and Use of Fuel Alcohol — Opportunities and Problems" to help them to reduce their dependence on diesel fuel and gasoline.

The publication discusses the equipment needed for on-farm fuel production, some of which can be built by the farmer. It also outlines the storage facilities that would be needed for the fuel and the livestock feed or stillage that is produced as a by-product. It discusses the costs that must be kept in mind when deciding whether alcohol production makes economic sense. These include the capital investment and such operating expenses as depreciation, interest, energy inputs and chemicals. These must be weighed against the returns from the alcohol fuel and the livestock feed produced.

The publication says that potential health hazards and the threat of fire and explosion during the production, storage and use of the alcohol must not be overlooked. It discusses these potential hazards and outlines safety precautions that should be carefully followed.

"Farm-Scale Production and Use of Fuel Alcohol — Opportunities and Problems" will help to answer some of the basic questions that farmers should be concerned with before they start to produce farm alcohol. These questions include: "How much alcohol fuel can I use on my farm?" "Is there enough feed to provide that fuel?" "Are there enough animals on the farm or nearby to use the stillage produced."

Copies of "Farm-Scale Production and the Use of Fuel Alcohol — Opportunities and Problems" (No.1712) can be obtained from Information Services, Agriculture Canada, Sir John Carling Building, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C7.

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March 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF MOSQUITOES

Scientists at the federal research station in Lethbridge have discovered a biological agent that has given about 60 per cent control of one of 18 local species of mosquitoes in field trials. This particular species is the one that sometimes carries the organism that causes sleeping sickness in horses and human beings. Since it also appears to attack several tropical mosquito species, it holds a great deal of promise for tropical regions where infestations are a problem.

The biological control agent is a specific type of fungus that is found in mosquito breeding areas. The concept being explored by the scientists at Lethbridge involves seeding mosquito breeding ponds with a fungus pathogen that has been raised commercially in a laboratory. The scientists want to establish a natural population balance between the mosquitoes and the pathogen at a level that would be well below that where control measures would be necessary. If such a balance could be achieved, it would mean that a pesticide would only have to be used occasionally to treat a bad infestation.

At the present time the scientists are trying to find out why the pathogen attacks only one local mosquito species. They also intend to examine pathogens from other parts of the world to find out whether they would be effective against other mosquito species found in Alberta.

March 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAMBCO PLANT ACCEPTING YOUNG GOATS FOR EASTER MARKET

The Lambco Plant at Innisfail will be accepting meat-type kid goats for the Easter market on April 6, 7 and 8.

The manager, Gordon Mohler, says that the kids must not weigh more than 40 pounds and that the plant will be offering $1.10 per pound liveweight. He also says that he expects to be able to sell about 1,000 meat-type kids to the Eastern trade.

Anyone who is planning to sell kids to Lambco for the Easter market must be sure to inform the plant of the number before the end of March. The address is Lambco, Box 1600, Innisfail, Alberta, TOM 1AO and the telephone number is 227-3386.

Information on other meat-type goat markets can be obtained from the Goat Information Centre, Box 89, Kingman, Alberta, TOB 2MO (Telephone: 672-7372).

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March 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRUNING APPLE TREES

The first three or four years in the life of a fruit tree are very important from the point of view of pruning. It is during this period that the height, shape, strength and, to a large extent, the earliness of bearing is established.

When you plant a one year-old apple tree, head it back to a good strong bud about three feet above the ground. This technique, recommended for Prairie conditions and known as the modified leader system, will cause a branch to form from the bud below the cut and shoots to appear from the buds below that.

After one year's growth, select three to five main branches, including the leader, as permanent scaffolds. If possible include the bottom branch on the south-west side of the tree to protect the trunk from sunscald. Choose branches that are about a foot apart on the trunk, and which have a wide crotch (the angle formed between the branch and the trunk). The branches selected should be located on different sides of the tree. Prune out the other branches and head back the branches you are keeping by about a third to a half of their length and head back the leader to balance the tree.

Delayed heading is a practice commonly used on apple trees to eliminate the narrow-angled crotches that frequently occur on one year-old trees directly below the point of heading. It entails heading the tree back at planting time six to eight inches higher than the required height. Then when the terminal shoots are five or six inches long, cut the top back six to eight inches to eliminate the shoots with the narrow-angled crotches. The lower shoots with the wider angles will then be forced into more vigorous growth. It is from these shoots that you will ultimately select the framework of your tree.

- (cont'd) -

Pruning Apple Trees (cont'd)

If you are planting a two year-old tree, you should form the leader from the central shoot, and choose no more than four side branches, a foot apart, for the main scaffold limbs. They should form a spiral around the trunk with the first one starting approximately 18 inches above the ground. Head the leader back by about a third of its length to an outside bud so that the tree will grow outwards.

If you want to prune a three or four year-old apple tree, you should do it while the tree is still dormant and your aim should be to maintain the proper relationship among the branches that make up the scaffold system. Thin out the side branches on the scaffolds and prune them and the scaffold branches back to about half the previous season's growth. The only other pruning that is necessary is corrective. This entails cutting out sprouts, damaged and in-growing branches.

Most of the fruit is borne on the ends of the short spurs that form on branches that are two years old or older. If they should miss fruiting one year, do not cut them off in the mistaken belief that they are barren. The majority of apple varieties produce some fruit on one year-old wood as well.

New growth should be thinned to encourage the development of new fruit spurs. The motto for pruning young trees should be "prune lightly". Leave the small branches and spurs on the tree because they are the wood upon which the first fruit will develop.

When you have to prune an apple tree that is beginning to bear fruit, remove entire branches rather than cutting them back. Poor fruit will develop on branches that are small in diameter. Keep the tree well balanced, occasionally head back branches that are growing too long and keep the top of the tree open enough to let in the sunlight. Sunlight is necessary to give the fruit a good color.

- (cont'd) -

Pruning Apple Trees (cont'd)

Pruning wounds will heal quickly on apple trees, providing that you make the cuts clean and close to the branches from which you remove the limbs. However, large cuts should always be covered with a tree wound dressing or emulsified asphalt.

If you would like additional information on pruning apple trees or information on Pruning other types of fruit trees, get a copy of Agriculture Canada's publication entitled "Pruning and Training Fruit Trees", which contains many good illustrations. It can be obtained in Alberta from district agriculturists and from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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March 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MICROWAVE OVEN COOKING

Four models of microwave-convection ovens, approved by the Canadian Standards Association, are now appearing on the Canadian market. They are the Panasonic Microwave-Convection Oven-Dimension 3, the Amana, the Sharp and the Quasar.

According to Alberta Agriculture's district home economist at Stettler, Debbie Brekke, the outstanding feature of all these ovens is that the manufacturers have combined the energy efficiency of the microwave oven with the browning and crisping characteristics of the convection oven. However, by combining the two types of ovens, the speed with which a conventional microwave oven cooks food has been reduced by about 35 per cent.

Ms. Brekke says that she often receives complaints from microwave oven owners about the problems they have cooking a complete meal in a microwave oven and keeping everything hot. She says foods which have the greatest density should be cooked first because they will stay hot for up to an hour. They include baked potatoes (regular and sweet) corn on the cob, ham, pork, turkey, whole cauliflower and onions.

Products that hold their heat for up to half an hour include whole carrots, casseroles, chicken, meatloaf, rice and mashed potatoes, providing that they are all placed in a tightly covered dish.

Light density products like beans, sliced carrots, kernel corn, peas and mushrooms will stay warm for up to 10 minutes in a tightly covered dish.

Ms. Brekke also suggests wrapping individual items like baked potatoes in aluminium foil after they have been cooked to prolong their heat retention and using the foil to cover casserole and baking dishes that contain moist food or meats that are already cooked. She says moist foods and meat will benefit from the tenderizing effect of the steam. Cooked roasts which are tender can also be kept warm by covering them with tinfoil that is formed into loose tent and left open at the ends.

March 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL MANAGER APPOINTED FOR BARRHEAD

Lorne Ordze, chairman of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation, has announced the promotion of Lyle Roberts to the position of regional manager at Barrhead. He will be taking up his new position on April 6, 1981.

Mr. Roberts joined the corporation in January 1974 and has been the Calgary loans officer since that time. Prior to that he was employed for a short time by Imperial Oil Limited as a marketing officer.

He was raised on a farm in Saskatchewan and majored in agricultural economics at the University of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Roberts is active in community affairs and his hobbies include racquetball, hunting and training field trial dogs.

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March 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED TO TWO HILLS

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the appointment of Debra Sapiuk to the position of district home economist at Two Hills. Her appointment becomes effective on March 27.

Ms. Sapiuk was raised on a mixed farm near Vegreville and was an active member in 4-H during her teen years. She graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (home economics) in 1980.

She spent the summers of 1978 and 1979 and the winter of 1979 working part-time with the clothing and textile specialist in the home economics laboratory in Edmonton. During her fourth year at University she worked with Alberta Agriculture's food marketing branch on the Nutrition at School Program.

Ms. Sapiuk took her district home economist training at Westlock, and has been temporarily filling the district home economist position in Grande Prairie.

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AGRI-NEWS

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March 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 1980 -- MARCH 1981 HOG PRICE SUPPORT LEVELS

The following support prices pertaining to the Alberta Emergency Stop Loss Program for hogs are published as a guide to weanling pig buyers and sellers who use the slaughter market prices in their contracts.

Support prices are automatically paid by the Alberta government for slaughter pigs sold through the Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board for each week that the board's weekly average price is below the equivalent price in the following table. Slaughter hogs that are not sold through the board will be subsidized upon receipt of an application form. Application forms and brochures explaining the Alberta Emergency Stop Loss Program can be obtained from all district agriculturists.

No payments will be made from August 11 through December 19, 1980 because market prices exceeded the support level during this period. However, the lower prices that prevailed in late December and January will result in further payments being made under the program.

Month	Guaranteed Return per 170-lb Carcass Grading 101 index	Equivalent Support Price Per Hundredweight Carcass Grading 100 index
April 1980	$103.82	$60.47
May	$104.88	$61.09
June	$105.22	$61.28
July	$105.31	$61.33
August	$105.98	$61.72
September	$107.50 (no support paid)	$62.61
October	$109.54 (no support paid)	$63.80
November	$111.60 (no support paid)	$65.00

- (cont'd) -

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April 1980 – March 1981 Hog Price Support Levels (cont'd)

December	$113.00	$65.81
January 1981	$114.47	$66.67
February	$116.58	$67.90
March	$118.34	$68.92

Producers are reminded that this program expires March 31, 1981, and will be replaced by a voluntary program for which enrollment will be required. The deadline for applications under the current program is May 31, 1981.

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March 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN EVALUATION OF ALBERTA'S BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY

by Trevor Bryant
Exchange Bee Advisor from New Zealand

The beekeeping industry in Alberta is smaller than that of New Zealand — 180,000 versus 240,000 hives and 2,000 versus 5,200 beekeepers — but Alberta produces 9,070 tonnes compared with New Zealand's 7,200 tonnes.

Pollination is a major concern for New Zealand beekeepers, horticulturists and farmers. More than 20,000 colonies are required by the Kiwi fruit industry alone, and this figure is projected to rise to 35,000 by 1985. Then there are all the bees required to pollinate the pip-stone fruit and the citrus and berry fruit, not to mention legume and brassica crops.

An important difference between Alberta and New Zealand is that the former is an importer of bees and queens while the latter is an exporter of both. However, the real differences are to be found in extension, research and legislation. In Alberta you have the provincial apiarist; the chief and regional inspectors; a researcher with a dual role in apiculture entomology at Brooks and a host of inspectors on 30 to 90-day employment plus a federal team, based at Beaverlodge, and a program for beekeeper technicians at Fairview. By contrast we in New Zealand have eight apicultural advisory officers, whose main job is extension and who have a minor regulatory role; one honey grader; one chief advisor; one researcher and one technician. The advisor is technically competent in all aspects of the beekeeping industry and acts as a liaison between the beekeeper and the government. Since an apiculturist today must be a jack-of-all-trades, including a business manager, university graduates can no longer expect to become extension beekeepers without first having a good grounding in all the components that are involved in beekeeping.

It is my contention that there must be a significant shift in emphasis within Alberta Agriculture if the beekeeping industry is to realize its full potential, and this is borne out by the evaluation of the short course at Olds College and research priorities proposed by

- (cont'd) -

the apiculture industry. Most of the "so called" research priorities are purely extension subjects. Meanwhile, the beekeeper is starving for some good technical advice.

It seems that in the past Alberta Agriculture has been inclined to neglect the commercial beekeeper in favor of programs for the hobbyist beekeeper. The latter need help, but who is more important? Another point, you cannot compare the beekeeper and the farmer when it comes to extension work. The farmer has at his beck and call all the department of agriculture's specialists, private consultants, the federal government, elevator representatives, etc. The beekeeper, on the other hand, has only a few department of agriculture people and some federal people, who, all too often, have no experience in commercial beekeeping or with the industry in general.

It is also obvious that the beekeeper does not have enough extension input, and I would suggest that many of the problems currently facing the industry could be overcome by personal contact, short courses, discussion groups and on-the-job contact on a one-to-one basis rather than by fancy conferences, research documents and news letters. The beekeeping industry must also be made aware of the specialist services that are available through the department and these specialists, in their turn, must familiarize themselves with the industry and its problems.

The potential for growth within the Alberta beekeeping industry is phenomenal and exciting, but there is an enormous amount of work to be done and many skills to be learned. These include colony management, particularly the spring management of overwintered colonies, breeding queens, processing and marketing business management. The potential rewards from such an approach are enormous. I suggest that the industry as it exists today could produce another 10 million pounds of honey even though the stocking rate has yet to realize its maximum potential. With increased profits will come all the benefits of a successful industry.

March 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAKELAND COLLEGE AERIAL APPLICATORS TRAINING PROGRAM

Lakeland College in Vermilion will be holding an aerial applicator's training course from April 20 to May 29, 1981.

Designed to fill the need for trained personnel in this field, the course will deal with flight theory as it pertains to agricultural and forestry operations and the theory of chemicals and their effect on the environment.

The course is divided into three sections. The first will entail 100 hours on academic subjects like biology, entomology, chemistry, pesticides, environmental aspects of aerial spraying, etc. The second section will entail 100 hours of on-the-ground training which will include such things as flight safety, meteorology, equipment calibration, maintenance, operations management, legislation etc. The third section will entail 30 to 40 hours of flying. This section will cover such things as flying techniques related to the aerial application of agricultural chemicals.

It is strongly recommended that anyone who plans to take the course ask for the pre-study package and texts when he registers. The registration covers the package and the texts and is only $347.25. There is an additional charge of $600 to help defray flying costs.

Accommodation should be available in the college residence, but students are responsible for checking this out or for making other arrangements.

Application forms for the aerial applicator's training course can be obtained from Lakeland College, Vermilion Campus, Vermilion, Alberta, TOB 4MO. (Telephone: 853-2971).

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March 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SERIES OF RAT CONTROL MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Alberta Agriculture's crop protection and pest control branch will be holding a series of six meetings later this month and on April 1 to re-emphasize the importance of keeping Alberta a rat-free province, to instruct new personnel, to review changes in rat control procedures brought about by the increasing complexity of our cities and to provide the latest information on new chemicals.

The meetings are designed for urban pest control officers, agricultural service board fieldmen, public health officials, fish and wildlife officers, district agriculturists and others concerned with controlling Norway rats and other small animal pests.

The meetings will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will take place at the following locations on the specified dates:

Medicine Hat — Provincial Administration Building — March 24
Lethbridge — Lethbridge Research Station — March 25
Airdrie — Regional Agricultural Center — March 26
Lloydminster — Stockade Building, Exhibition Grounds — March 30
Bonnyville — Provincial Building — March 31
Edmonton — The Gardens, Edmonton Northlands — April 1

Further information on the meetings can be obtained from Cliff Barrett, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8. (Telephone: 427-5370).

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March 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

METRIC CONVERSION OF HERBICIDES

Agricultural herbicides that are sold this spring will have metric labels except for those that were manufactured before the changeover.

To help Alberta farmers to make the changeover to metric with as little difficulty as possible, district agriculturists and agricultural fieldmen plan to hold a series of meetings this spring. They will cover such things as the conversion of acres to hectares, the conversion of gallons to litres, and the calculation of the amount of product required for a given area. There will also be slide and film shows.

The chemical industry will be holding meetings at various locations throughout the province for the same purpose. The United Farmers of Alberta are giving away free calibration cups and are selling measuring jugs which have both the Imperial and the metric measurements.

The Alberta Government Services metric branch has slide tape kits, pamphlets, etc. on metric conversion. One of the pamphlets entitled "Metric – Farm and Ranch Guide" contains tables to help farmers to think in metric when making their calculations. This publication and other information can be obtained from the Metric Branch, Alberta Government Services, 12th Floor, Park Square, 10001 Bellamy Hill, Edmonton, T5J 3C1.

Alberta Agriculture's 1981 "Guide to Chemical Weed Control in Alberta" has all its recommended herbicide rates listed in metric measurements. It can be obtained from district agriculturists and from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

March 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOLAR ENERGY CAN HELP FARMERS

Researchers in Scotland are being cautiously optimistic about the part solar energy could play on farms — and they are now planning to put their ideas into practice.

Two years ago the Scottish Institute of Agricultural Engineers built a solar energy test rig at the Bush Estate at Penicuik. It was designed to assess how much potential heat was available, using a straightforward collector panel.

Now designs are in hand for building a complete grain drying and storage plant with solar collectors. Similar buildings are in use in Switzerland, Sweden and West Germany.

The researchers are planning a double roofed building with the collector area on a south facing wall. The plant will be used as a batch hay drier in June and July, as a grain drier during harvest and to store implements and grain during the rest of the year.

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March 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ESTIMATE OF FARM NUMBERS IN CANADA

Agriculture Canada's statistics division placed the total number of farms in Canada last year at 327,600, down by 0.5 per cent from the 1979 estimate of 329,300.

As the estimates indicate, there was a remarkable stability in farm numbers recently, with minor changes occurring in New Brunswick, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The decline in Saskatchewan was about 0.6 per cent and in Alberta it was about 2.5 per cent.

The decline in Canadian farm numbers started in 1941 when there were about 732,832. By 1980 the number had dropped to only 327,600. However, the rate of decrease slowed from an annual rate of 1.5 per cent in the 1940's to 0.5 per cent between 1979 and 1980.

The 1979 and 1980 farm number estimates were derived from farm enumeration surveys. A farm was defined as an establishment where the sales from agricultural products exceeded $250 annually.

In the 1941 to 1976 farm number estimates the definition of a farm was based on no less than one acre and sales from agricultural products that were greater than $50.

March 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIX ALBERTA FIRMS TO PARTICIPATE IN HOSTEX

Six Alberta food companies will be participating in Hostex in Toronto from April 26 to 29. Hostex is Canada's largest trade show for the hospitality industry.

Since the majority of the more than 20,000 people expected to attend Hostex will be buyers from the food service and restaurant industries, the Alberta food companies will have an excellent opportunity to expose their products to Eastern Canadian markets. They are Canbra Foods Ltd. of Lethbridge, Sun Valley Foods Ltd. of High River, Burns Meats Ltd. of Calgary, Heritage Foods Ltd. of Edmonton, W.P. Foods Ltd. of Sherwood Park and Highland Produce Ltd. of Two Hills.

Canbra Foods Ltd. plan to display such canola products as Tasty-fry, a liquid frying shortening, a complete line of baking shortenings, salad dressings and margarines.

Sun Valley Foods Ltd., a new company in the food service market, will be featuring seasoned croutons. The croutons are made with pea and bean flour, and are delicious with soups and salads and can be eaten as snacks.

Burns Meats Ltd. will be displaying a variety of fresh and processed meats at Hostex. These will include oven-ready ribs, tenderloins, sirloins, hams, weiners and smoked sausages.

Heritage Foods Ltd. will be featuring Ukrainian food. Visitors will be able to sample such things as Cheemo Brand perogies and cabbage rolls in a new and convenient package that can be used in a microwave or a conventional oven.

March 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"FOOD . . . FACTS, AND FUNT"

"Food . . . Facts, and Funt" will be re-broadcast on XTV Edmonton, CKSA Lloydminster, CKRD Red Deer and CHAT Medicine Hat at 7.30 p.m. on April 6 and on CBRT Calgary and its affiliates at 7.30 p.m. on April 7.

Alberta Agriculture first presented this serious but light-hearted TV special last fall when it attracted over 200,000 viewers. This was no mean trick considering it was competing with the Reagan-Carter debate and the budget speech from the Canadian House of Commons in Ottawa.

The show investigates the "Whys" and the "Hows" of everyone's grocery bill, and features Allen Funt, the creator and star of Candid Camera. Disguised as a Canadian, he and his hidden camera intercept shoppers in an Edmonton supermarket where he asks: "Are food prices too high – compared with what?" The answers he got were surprising!

For more information on "Food . . . Facts, and Funt" contact:

Douglas E. Pettit
Alberta Agriculture
1B, 9718 - 107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta.

(Telephone: 427 2127)

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March 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AG-EXPO 1981 RESULTS

Following is a list of exhibitors and prize winners at Ag-Expo which was held at Lethbridge.

George Luco Grand Champion Trophy

Douglas Campbell
Box 145, Coaldale

Kizema Memorial Trophy

Jimmy Miklos
Box 55, Wrentham

Junior Challenge Aggregate Trophy

Jim Deurloo
Granum

Russell Greeno Memorial Trophy

Foremost Co-op Seed Cleaning Plant

PEDIGREED CEREAL CLASSES

Pedigreed Hard Red Spring Wheat

1. Jim Miklos, Box 55, Wrentham
2. Forest Balderson, Magrath
3. Nich Andruchow, Box 506, Vulcan

Pedigreed Hard Red Winter Wheat

1. Waterton Seeds, Box 58, Hillspring
2. Cameron Farms, Box 270, Turin
3. George Luco, Lethbridge

- (cont'd) -

Ag-Expo 1981 Results (cont'd)

Pedigreed Durum

2. Jim Roth, Grassy Lake

Pedigreed 2-Row Barley

1. Edwin Kiffiak, Foremost
2. Harry Haney, Picture Butte
3. Forest Balderson, Box 294, Magrath

Pedigreed 6-Row Barley

1. Waterton Seeds, Box 58, Hillspring
2. E. Mercer, 1003-30 Street, Lethbridge
3. Luco Farms, Lethbridge

Pedigreed Oats

1. Waterton Seeds, Box 58, Hillspring
2. Donald Fraser, Box 155, Hussar

Pedigreed Soft White Spring Wheat

1. Tony Crooysman, Box 572, Bow Island
2. Ted Gergely, Box 801, Coaldale
3. Doug Campbell, Box 145, Coaldale

Pedigreed Utility Wheat

1. Lloyd Mercer, Lethbridge

- (cont'd) -

Ag-Expo 1981 Results (cont'd)

Pedigreed Forage Class

1. Gordon Thompson, Box 576, Milk River
2. Ken Miller, Milk River
3. Ken Long, Box 178, Cardston

Pedigreed Legume Seed

1. S & A Seed Farm, Box 489, Brooks
2. Einer Larsen, Box 59, Tilley
3. Jorgen Larsen, Box 128, Tilley

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENERGY MANAGEMENT ENGINEER APPOINTED

Donna Bagdan, head of Alberta Agriculture's home and community design branch, has announced the appointment of Donald Wharton to the position of energy management engineer.

Mr. Wharton will provide technical information to rural home owners in Alberta on energy conservation practices and alternative sources of energy. He will also be responsible for training and advising Alberta Agriculture extension staff on energy conservation and solar design principles.

Mr. Wharton was born and raised in Edmonton and obtained his B.Sc. (chemical engineering) from the University of Calgary in 1973. Following graduation, he spent two years with the Energy Resources Conservation Board in the environment and gas departments. He then went to Guatemala in Central America where he spent the next four years as manager and innovative project co-ordinator at the Choqui Experimental Station.

From 1979 until his present appointment, Mr. Wharton was employed by Stanley Associates Engineering Ltd in Edmonton as an environmental engineer. Here he was responsible for atmospheric studies which included air quality and meteorological investigations.

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March 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSISTANT MANAGER OF LENDING APPOINTED

Lorne Ordze, chairman of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation, has announced the promotion of Andrew Church to the position of assistant manager of lending at the Corporation's head office in Camrose.

Mr. Church took his B.Sc. (agriculture) at the University of Alberta and graduated in 1973. He then joined Alberta Agriculture as a district agriculturist in Olds where he stayed until he joined the corporation in October of 1974. Since that time he has been loans officer in the Camrose district office.

Mr. Church and his family live in Camrose and are involved in many sporting and social activities.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOANS OFFICER TRANSFERRED TO CAMROSE

Lorne C. Ordze, chairman of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation has announced the transfer of Kathryn Richardson to the Camrose district office.

Ms. Richardson graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc.(agriculture) in 1980 and joined the corporation in August of the same year as a loans officer in the Red Deer office. She has already moved to Camrose and lists among her interests training and showing horses.

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March 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL ENTOMOLOGIST APPOINTED TO FAIRVIEW

J.B. Gurba, head of Alberta Agriculture's crop protection and pest control branch, has announced the appointment of Richard Butts to the position of regional entomologist at Fairview. He is the first Alberta Agriculture entomologist to be employed in the Peace River area.

Located in the regional laboratory, Mr. Butts will be responsible for developing and supervising an insect diagnostic and pest management service for the Peace River area. He will also do field investigations, applied research and conduct surveys and will work in close cooperation with other specialists at Fairview, Beaverlodge, Vegreville, Brooks and Edmonton.

Mr. Butts was born and educated in Guelph, Ontario. He obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Guelph in 1976. In 1979 he graduated from the same university with an M.Sc. (entomology).

He worked as a technician at the University of Guelph from 1974-1976 and as a technician at the Vineland Research Station in Ontario during the summer of 1976. After obtaining his M.Sc., Mr. Butts was employed by Cyanamid Canada Inc. in the technical sales department.

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March 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION APPOINTS SIX LOANS OFFICERS

Lorne C. Ordze, chairman of the Agricultural Development Corporation has announced the hiring of Brian Matthiessen, Peter Nielsen, Howard Sparkes, Nicky Sereda, Vic Peters and Gordon Handke.

Brian Matthiessen

Mr. Matthiessen joined the corporation as a loans officer in Camrose on March 9. He was raised on a farm in the Heisler area and obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta in 1977. Since then he has been a regional 4-H specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Peter Nielsen

Mr. Nielsen joined the corporation as a loans officer in St. Paul on March 16. He graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1974. Following graduation he joined Alberta Agriculture as a district agriculturist in Coronation and later spent 18 months as agricultural program manager with the Saddle Lake Indian Band. He has spent the last year as district agriculturist at Bonnyville.

Howard Sparkes

Mr. Sparkes joined the corporation as a loans officer on March 16 and will be working initially in the lending section of head office. He is a 1977 graduate of the University of Guelph and has a B.Sc. (agriculture). Since graduating he has worked in Yellowknife and Edmonton and has spent the last 18 months as assistant grain elevator manager for the Alberta Wheat Pool in Morinville.

- (cont'd) -

Agricultural Development Corporation Appoints Six Loans Officers (cont'd)

Nicky Sereda

Mr. Sereda will join the corporation as the loans officer in Drumheller on April 1. He comes from Drumheller and obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta in 1977. He then worked as a PFRA allocations officer and has spent the last two and a half years with Alberta Agriculture as a dairy herd improvement technician in Lethbridge.

Vic Peters

Mr. Peters will join the corporation as a loans officer in Peace River on April 16. He comes from Manitoba and obtained a diploma in agriculture from the University of Manitoba in 1973. Apart from a year of extension work in Bangladesh, he has been running his own farm in Manitoba and lecturing on farm management since his graduation.

Gordon Handke

Mr. Handke will join the corporation as a loans officer in the Red Deer office on May 1. He was raised on a farm near Westlock and graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.A. (economics) in 1980.

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March 30, 1981

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
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March 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE ADC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dallas W. Schmidt, Alberta's minister of agriculture, has announced the appointment of George Hutskal to the board of directors of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC). He joins the existing 10-member board, which is responsible for conducting the affairs of ADC including establishing the corporation's policy direction.

Mr. Hutskal resides in the Bonnyville area, where he has farmed since 1945. He recently resigned from the local agricultural development committee in order to accept his present position with ADC. In addition to farming, he has been involved in local municipal affairs where he held the positions of counsellor and reeve for the M.D. of Bonnyville. He has also served on various committees relating to the M.D. of Bonnyville, and was director and vice-president of the Alberta Provincial Fire Chief's Association for six years.

With his farm background and previous involvement in municipal affairs, Mr. Hutskal will be a valuable addition as representative from the northeast region of Alberta to ADC's board of directors.

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March 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEPUTY MINISTER ADDRESSES ALASKA SYMPOSIUM

Alberta's deputy minister of agriculture says his province's experience in developing northern farming practices should bode well for similar development in Alaska.

Dr. James O'Donoghue told the symposium on the development of Alaska's agricultural industry that one can learn more from past experience than from future planning.

The symposium, held in Anchorage, Alaska, was sponsored by the Alaska Renewable Resource Corporation and the Co-operative Extension Service.

Dr. O'Donoghue reviewed events surrounding agricultural development in the Peace River region of Alberta and paid tribute to the petroleum industry for assisting in that development.

"In my opinion," the deputy minister said, "oil exploration and development has been a major incentive. It helped to open roads and to establish transportation routes and services, and it continues to be an important source of off-farm income, especially to the many part-time farmers in the region."

Research will be of vital importance if farmers are to produce crops and livestock in Alaska. Reviewing Alberta's research effort, Dr. O'Donoghue noted the establishment of a demonstration station at Fort Vermilion in 1907 and the larger Agriculture Canada research station at Beaverlodge in 1919. "Both stations," he said, "are dedicated to research that is important to northern agriculture." More recently money from the Alberta Heritage Trust Fund has been allocated through the Farming for the Future Research Program. While encompassing the whole province, Dr. O'Donoghue said, this program places special emphasis on

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Deputy Minister Addresses Alaska Symposium (cont'd)

northern Alberta and any relevant results from this research are freely available to Alaskans. He is also hopeful that an exchange research program can be developed between the state of Alaska and the province of Alberta in the very near future.

Dr. O'Donoghue concluded: "Based on what has occurred to date, I honestly believe that developments in northern agriculture will exceed expectations. Government's role in this development will be directed towards research and assisting in the improvement of production efficiency as well as in the promotion of markets."

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March 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REPRODUCTIVE EVALUATION OF BULLS

Did you know that a number of studies have shown that between 10 and 20 per cent of bulls used for breeding are either infertile or subfertile?

If you want to reduce the risk of introducing a marginally fertile or infertile bull into your herd, you should evaluate it for reproductive soundness.

Bulls can be evaluated just prior to the breeding season, during the breeding season, at the end of the breeding season, during the off-season or at any time that an evaluation appears necessary.

The advantage of testing bulls just prior to the breeding season is that the likelihood of anything going wrong between then and actual mating is minimized.

The advantage of doing the evaluation three or four weeks into the breeding season is that a problem can be rectified before it is too late. Poor quality semen at this time indicates that the bull has been over-used and should be rested or put in with a smaller group of females. It is a good idea to keep a few extra bulls that can be used as substitutes.

The advantage of testing bulls at the end of the breeding season is that it gives the owner an opportunity to eliminate those that are poor, and, thereby, save the cost of feeding and maintaining them for the next nine months.

If a bull is evaluated when there appears to be a problem, adjustments can then be made to ensure a high conception rate.

It is advisable to have a new bull examined by a veterinarian who is competent to rectally examine its accessory sex glands, palpate the epididymis and give the animal a clean bill of health. The remainder of the reproductively important factors fall into three categories

- (cont'd) -

Reproductive Evaluation Of Bulls (cont'd)

that can be evaluated by a competent and conscientious cattle breeder. They are general physical characteristics, reproductive organs and semen quality and libido.

Concise information on evaluating a bull's general physical characteristics, reproductive organs and its semen quality and libido is contained in a new publication entitled "Reproductive Examination of Bulls" (FS 420/30-1). It can be obtained from district agriculturists or the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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March 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following article, carried in the March 23rd issue of "Agri-News", was incomplete. Below is the complete version.

SIX ALBERTA FIRMS TO PARTICIPATE IN HOSTEX

Six Alberta food companies will be participating in Hostex in Toronto from April 26 to 29. Hostex is Canada's largest trade show for the hospitality industry.

Since the majority of the more than 20,000 people expected to attend Hostex will be buyers from the food service and restaurant industries, the Alberta food companies will have an excellent opportunity to expose their products to Eastern Canadian markets. They are Canbra Foods Ltd. of Lethbridge, Sun Valley Foods Ltd. of High River, Burns Meats Ltd. of Calgary, Heritage Foods Ltd. of Edmonton, W.P. Foods Ltd. of Sherwood Park and Highland Produce Ltd. of Two Hills.

Canbra Foods Ltd. plan to display such canola products as Tasty-fry, a liquid frying shortening, a complete line of baking shortenings, salad dressings and margarines.

Sun Valley Foods Ltd., a new company in the food service market, will be featuring seasoned croutons. The croutons are made with pea and bean flour and are delicious with soups and salads and can be eaten as snacks.

Burns Meats Ltd. will be displaying a variety of fresh and processed meats at Hostex. These will include oven-ready ribs, tenderloins, sirloins, hams, weiners and smoked sausages.

Heritage Foods Ltd. will be featuring Ukrainian food. Visitors will be able to sample such things as Cheemo Brand Perogies and cabbage rolls in a new and convenient package that can be used in a microwave or a conventional oven.

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Six Alberta Firms To Participate In Hostex (cont'd)

W.P. Foods Ltd. is sending frozen unbaked pastry, pie and tart shells, puff pastry dough and cream puff and eclair shells. High quality pastries can be created with a minimum of labor when these products are used.

Highland Produce Ltd. will be introducing its high quality frozen egg products that are economical and convenient for the hospitality industry. This firm will be featuring a small egg omelet called the "egg hero" and a frozen scrambled egg and omelet mix.

This will be the fourth year that Alberta Agriculture's food marketing branch has helped Alberta food and beverage companies with the promotion and sale of their products at Hostex.

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March 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADA MISSING OUT ON FEED GRAINS MARKET

A Winnipeg grain market analyst says Canada is not doing enough to encourage adequate production of barley, oats and feed wheat to permit sizeable increases in exports.

Peter Perkins of Herald Grain Limited in Winnipeg told the Accent '81 Conference in Edmonton that Canada is "missing the boat" on feed grains. He said more and more milling wheat production is being encouraged, while world markets for Marquis-quality milling wheats are stagnant and that this preference for wheat over feed grains has gone unchecked for far too long.

According to the Winnipeg analyst, the demand is increasing for feed grains. He said: " The world trade in feed grains in 1970 was only 46 million tonnes, which was considerably less than the trade in wheat. However, this year it is expected to reach 105 million tonnes, which is considerably more than world trade in wheat".

Perkins indicated that a large part of the growth in the demand for feed grains as well as the increase in feed grain trading has taken place in the U.S. Canada, on the other hand, has made only a meagre contribution towards supplying surplus production for the expanding world demand for grains".

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March 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN ANALYST BULLISH ON FEED GRAINS

An American commodity analyst says anything less than ideal crop development this year could create an explosion in world feed grain prices.

Dr. Richard Andersen, vice-president of Sparks Commodities, Inc., Memphis, Tennesee, told the Accent '81 Conference in Edmonton that 1980-81 is an adjustment year in the world feed grain market. He said "We are adjusting from a period of relative abundance of feed grain supplies to a potential major shortage." He pointed out that the situation must be called a potential one because even though feed grain stocks are being drawn down to a dangerously low level, worldwide record crops could turn the tide and give us breathing room in years ahead.

Reviewing the world feed grain outlook, Dr. Andersen noted that record feed grain crops will be harvested in South America this year. Argentina is likely to have twice as much corn and sorghum to export as it had last year, and Brazil is expecting a record corn crop.

Dr. Andersen also noted that Western European crops should be down from last year's record level and that conditions in Eastern Europe and Russia should be about normal.

As for the North American feed grain situation, he expects relatively strong barley prices to encourage an increase in Canada's feed grain acreage at the expense of oilseeds. He said U.S. feed grain stocks are almost at an all-time record low as a percentage of total usage. Despite current corn prices of $3.35 per bushel, Dr. Andersen does not believe there will be a major shift in planted acreage from soybeans to corn.

At current price levels, the U.S. needs a near record corn crop in 1981 just to hold the market in check. "Right now" said Dr. Andersen, " a betting man would have to favor a U.S. corn crop below rather than above 7.6 billion bushels, which means that the risk of

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American Analyst Bullish On Feed Grains (cont'd)

being short on the market far exceeds the risk of being long."

However, there are many influences which cannot be judged accurately at this point. Both the weather and sub-soil moisture levels could significantly affect yields.

In summary, Andersen stated: "We are bullish on feed grain prices given what we know today, but tomorrow brings a new beginning which could change our outlook considerably."

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March 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBSTITUTION OF VEGETABLE OIL FOR FUEL

An American grain analyst told delegates to Alberta Agriculture's Accent '81 Conference that the use of vegetable oils as a substitute for diesel fuel is potentially the most dynamic development that has taken place in the petroleum industry.

David Bartholomew of Merril Lynch in Chicago said that Brazil, which is firmly committed to reducing its dependence on petroleum imports, plans to include 6 per cent soybean oil in its fuel this year and 16 per cent in 1982. This will mean that before long Brazil will not be exporting any soybeans.

Mr. Bartholomew says the situation in Brazil will have a significant effect on the substitution of vegetable oils in the United States. If, for example, a blend of 20/80 is considered, and if half the 20 per cent vegetable oil comes from sunflowers, the equivalent of all the sunflower oil produced in the United States in 1979 will be used for this purpose. The balance could come from soybean oil and other oils without seriously affecting the total oil supply and demand.

According to Mr. Bartholomew, there will be an increase in the availability of corn oil from the production of fructose and the rapidly growing production of alcohol for fuel. In fact, it is projected that corn oil production could increase by 117,000 million tonnes in 1981 and by two or three times that amount in the near future. It is also possible that if the production of sunflower seed doubles in the near future, as seems likely, the entire 20 per cent of oil substituted for fuel could come from this crop.

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Substitution Of Vegetable Oils For Fuel (cont'd)

However, the Merril Lynch analyst warned that there is likely to be an increasing amount of debate about the advisability of using edible oils for fuel. On the other hand, he pointed out that man has used agricultural products as a source of fuel since the beginning of time. In fact, it has only been since the 1930's that North America has shifted from the use of horses and mules to the use of petroleum-powered implements and vehicles that do not use food for fuel.

From the long-term point of view, Mr. Bartholomew predicts that there will probably be many fuel sources developed from non-food renewable resources, and that this development will be accompanied by the diminishing use of food grains.

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March 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTEREST RATES TO RISE

Canadians could easily experience higher average interest rates in 1982.

Dr. John Grant, director and chief economist with Wood Gundy Limited of Toronto, told an agricultural outlook conference in Edmonton that there is a broad consensus that tight monetary targets will require short-term interest rates to remain high relative to inflation for quite some time. "It appears", said Dr. Grant, "that the U.S. is entering at least a modest new dip in economic activity, which could permit interest rates to fall for a while. However, we expect a new round of rate increases in the fall at the latest, and these may well go to a higher average level in 1982 than we will see this year".

Dr. Grant also told the conference delegates that the Bank of Canada is determined to prevent a major slide in the exchange rate in the face of weakening balance of payments. He said that, with some improvement in the balance of payments situation by late summer, our currency should be capable of strengthening without requiring such a wide gap between Canadian and American interest rates. However, the Wood Gundy economist feels that, in the meantime, we may temporarily experience an even wider short-term interest rate gap, and that we should be prepared for an unrelenting monetary squeeze in Canada.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

March 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARMERS TOLD TO TAKE A CAREFUL LOOK BEFORE REDUCING THEIR CANOLA ACREAGE

The general manager of Alberta Food Products at Fort Saskatchewan says farmers should take a long, careful look before reducing their canola acreage this year.

Speaking at Accent '81 in Edmonton, Ralph Chamberlain said he feels it would be a tragedy if all of the work that has gone into developing markets for canola and canola products were to be endangered by a lack of supply.

He also said he is aware that returns from canola have been somewhat disappointing in relation to other crops and admitted that he finds it difficult to be overly optimistic about prices for canola over the next 16 to 18 months.

The Alberta Food Products general manager produced figures that showed that Canada will have a significant carryover of canola at the end of this crop year — some 1.2 million tonnes or about 40 to 45 per cent of the annual usage over the past two years. However, he projected the coming season should see a 20 per cent reduction in the canola acreage, and, assuming no major changes in domestic crush or exports, the carryover at the end of the 1981/82 season will be in the order of 500,000 tonnes.

That amount according, to Mr. Chamberlain, leaves little room for expansion of trade. "If yields should suffer or demand increase, we could be in a very tight supply position at the end of the next crop year," he said.

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March 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR MALTING BARLEY INDUSTRY NEEDED

A long-time Alberta brewing industry official has called for more government programs to develop new and competitive malting barley varieties.

Earl Coutts of Calgary told Alberta Agriculture's Accent '81 Conference in Edmonton that Canada has not increased its market share of malting barley sales despite the facts that this market has increased by some one million tonnes over the last decade and that Canada is number one in total barley exports. The reason, according to Coutts, is a lack of aggressiveness and interest on the part of this country.

"What is needed," he said is "an expanded and intensive sales program on malting barley. We also need on-the-spot trade missions to sell our product and to get to know key market requirements so that our breeding, research, production and processing programs will meet the needs of future markets".

Mr. Coutts urged farmers to sell agriculture to the federal government by outlining their concerns over what is happening in the malting barley industry in letters to ministers, their members of parliament and the Canadian Wheat Board.

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March 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEAT BOARD SAYS FAVORABLE PRICES AHEAD FOR PRAIRIE GRAINS

A Canadian Wheat Board official says the wheat acreage on the Prairies will increase by at least 10 per cent in 1981.

Dr. Jim Liebfried, Canadian Wheat Board commissioner, told the Accent '81 Conference, sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, that he expects the seeded acreage of wheat and durum to increase this spring. If yields are average or better than average, this increase could be in the order of 10 per cent. However, he said, "A much higher increase could be viewed with some concern." Both barley and rapeseed production could suffer as a result, which would increase Western Canada's dependency on wheat exports.

Dr. Liebfried explained that the total 1981 seeded acreage will depend to a great extent upon precipitation between now and seeding time.

Touching on the issue of transportation, he said that "A limiting factor on the movement of grain in early 1981/82 could be short grain supplies in August and September or before the rush of new harvest deliveries hits. Although a slow start to the grain movement could keep pressure on the system for the rest of the crop year, producers should have full delivery opportunities by July 31, 1982 unless an all-time record crop is harvested this fall."

Regarding price expectations, Dr. Liebfried appeared optimistic. He said "If 1981 world grain production turns out to be a bit short, I do not think that Canadian farmers will have to worry about prices covering costs."

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March 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A NEW MARKETING SCHEME

A British Columbia man has a new marketing scheme for the "apple-a-day" crowd. It is called "Rent-a-Tree"!

Under his scheme, apple lovers can rent their own apple tree for $60 a year. And what do you get for your $60? You get all the produce from your tree. You can rent a tree that produces either Delicious or McIntosh apples, and you can expect to get from 30 to 40 bushels of apples off it.

The $60 covers the management of your crop but it does not cover the picking. You will have to pick your own apples or arrange to have them picked for a nominal fee.

The "Rent-a-Tree" marketing scheme has proved to be very popular in the Netherlands where it has been a common practice for sometime.

If you would like more information about "Rent-a-Tree", you should contact Eric Boultbee, 345 Pineview Road, Penticton, B.C., V2A 6J7.

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March 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FARM BUILDINGS SHOW

Are you interested in discovering what is new in farm building designs? If so, this is your opportunity to see the latest in prefabricated buildings, silos, livestock confinement equipment, feeding equipment, heat exchangers and more!

Alberta Agriculture will be sponsoring the Alberta Farm Buildings Show at the Kinex Building in Red Deer on April 9, 10 and 11. In addition to being able to see the above exhibits and equipment, you will have the opportunity to attend seminars dealing with energy conservation, quality construction, contractor's law and metrics.

The agenda is as follows:

April 9 and 10 – Energy and Farm Building

- Eric Jensen, professional engineer with Jensen Engineering of Olds, will speak on energy in agriculture
- Robert Borg, mechanical engineer with Alberta Agriculture in Red Deer, will speak on environmental control
- Harold Orr, professional engineer with the National Research Council in Saskatoon, will speak on insulation and weather sealing
- Jim Ryan, chemical engineer with the University of Alberta, will speak on methane energy
- Martin Wrubleski, research specialist with the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture's agricultural engineering services, will speak on heat exchangers

April 11 – Quality Construction and Metrics

- Joe Lehane, (lawyer with Johnson, Miller and Lehane Law Firm),will speak on contractor's law
- A representative from the Ontario Farm Building Association will speak on quality construction and the Builders' Association

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Alberta Farm Buildings Show (cont'd)

- Dennis Darby, Alberta Agriculture's farm building specialist at Lethbridge, will speak on quality construction and building codes
- Denis Horobin, manager of the Dominion Construction Company Ltd.'s interior systems and a member of the Alberta Construction Association, will discuss metric construction

The seminars will be held from 9 a.m. until noon and the exhibits will be on display from noon until 5 p.m. Admission to the Alberta Farm Buildings Show will be free!

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March 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A NEW ZEALANDER'S IMPRESSION OF AGRICULTURE IN ALBERTA

by Trevor Bryant
the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture

The enormous potential for increasing agricultural production in Alberta is mind-boggling, but its fulfilment depends upon agriculture being placed in its rightful position as a vital renewable resource by the provincial government.

Albertans have a tremendous challenge before them as well as a number of problems that must be faced in the near future. These include the impact of urbanization and industrialization on valuable agricultural land, environmental hazards like acid rain, strip mining and land reclamation, social problems within many farming communities and the increasing stresses on a growing number of farm families.

I believe that the potential for increasing production from the province's rangeland and livestock could be more easily achieved by better pasture management, by improving dry matter yields and by controlled rotational grazing. Such an approach would entail the use of cereals, oilseed and forages in the rotation and the application of fertilizers and trace elements.

I agree in principle with the decentralization of government services, and can see the benefits it brings to communities where government offices etc. are set up. However, I cannot help wondering whether the decision to place whole divisions rather than a composite group of people from various departments with expertise in all technical and management skills might not have been better.

I get the feeling that people are being placed in little boxes around the province and that the resulting cost to Alberta Agriculture, the taxpayer and the farmer may outweigh the benefits.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
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April 6, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

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April 6, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINTER INJURY TO FORAGE CROPS COULD BE SERIOUS

Farmers in north-central Alberta who grow alfalfa or clover are advised to check these crops this spring for winter injury.

According to Dr. Jim McKenzie, a scientist at Agriculture Canada's research station at Beaverlodge, the potential for serious losses in alfalfa and clover crops exists in some parts of the Northern Prairies. In Alberta the area of concern is bounded by a line drawn from Stettler, north to Beaverlodge and the British Columbia border, northeast to Manning, east to Cold Lake, south to Provost and west to Stettler.

The reasons for the concern are the cold temperatures and sparse snow cover that were experienced last November, and the fact that these conditions followed a wet, late fall. Because of the late fall, the plants continued to grow later than usual and were, thus, more vulnerable than they would otherwise have been when the cold spell came.

Ten to 15 per cent of the alfalfa plants taken from plots on the Beaverlodge station and put into growth chambers failed to grow at all in three weeks and the remainder showed only one-tenth of their normal growth. A 10 to 15 per cent loss is normally not serious because surviving plants that are healthy will compensate for those that die by increasing their production. The situation that is causing the concern this year is the loss of vigor in the surviving plants. It is felt that in their weakened condition they may not be able to compete with the weeds next spring, and that they may be more susceptible to disease. Although alfalfa seed fields and older stands could be hard hit, as could clover fields, the problem could be most severe in the tender alfalfa varieties that are being used by the dehydration industry to produce feed pellets.

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Winter Injury To Forage Crops Could Be Serious (cont'd)

Dr. McKenzie points that a late, cold and wet spring would further deplete the energy and retard the growth of alfalfa and clover plants, thereby making the problem even more serious. He says that it is important that farmers know as soon as possible the extent of the damage to their crops so that they can arrange for replanting when necessary, and he asks them to report any winterkill to their district agriculturist who will pass on the information to him.

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April 6, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF BEEF CALF SCOURS

The cause of scours in beef calves is a complex problem in that its incidence is determined by the environment, the infectious agent build-up and the resistance of the cow and the calf.

According to Dr. Neil Palechek, Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle extension veterinarian, there are five main principles involved in preventing and controlling calf scours. These are the removal of the source of infection from the calves' environment; the removal of calves from the contaminated environment; increasing the nonspecific resistance of the calves; increasing the specific immunity of the calves and reducing stress.

Removal of the Source of Infection from the Calves' Environment

To remove the source of infection:

- Avoid excessive confinement during the winter feeding period in order to reduce the number of infected "carrier cows" which shed enteropathogens in their manure
- Do not calve cows and heifers on winter feeding grounds because of infectious agent build-up in this area
- Move cows and heifers one or two weeks before the onset of calving into an area reserved for calving
- Avoid "over confinement" in the calving area to reduce the rate of infectious agent build-up
- Locate (and rotate if possible) calving grounds in areas of natural shelter and good drainage. Low, poorly drained land with excessive ground surface water results in an astronomical infectious agent build-up that can last for months
- Provide plenty of clean, dry bedding if the calves cannot be removed from the contaminated area

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Prevention And Control Of Beef Calf Scours (cont'd)

Removal of Calves from the Contaminated Environment

Since it is a recognized fact that calves born on the open range have fewer scour problem that those born and raised in confinement, do not calve cows in such contaminated areas as barns, sheds, corrals or low lying areas. And prevent crowding in calving and nursing areas by dispersing the calves soon after they are born. Dr. Palechek says this practice will minimize stress and reduce the transmission of enteropathogens between animals.

Increasing the Nonspecific Resistance of Calves

Dr. Palecheck also says that a newborn calf must ingest at least three litres of colostrum, preferably within the first two hours of life, if it is to successfully absorb resistant antibodies.

The early ingestion of colostrum depends upon the maternal behaviour of the dam in that she may refuse to allow her calf to suckle. If this happens, the cow or heifer should be restrained and the calf encouraged to feed.

The vigor of the calf or its ability to stand and seek the teat also determines the early ingestion of colostrum. Weak calves, which often result from a difficult birth and forced extraction, must be given extra care and encouraged to suck. Dr. Palechek says at least two litres of frozen colostrum should be given to weak calves from beef heifers. As many as 50 per cent of these animals may produce as little as half a litre of colostrum.

Increasing the Specific Immunity of Calves

Dr. Palechek reports there are vaccines available that will enhance immunity to specific causes of scours. He says Vicogen R is a vaccine that provides protection against the K-99 strain of *Escherichia coli* (E. coli). The first injection has to be given to the cow six weeks before she calves. The second should be given about three weeks later.

Calf Guard R is a vaccine that can be administered to a cow or a calf. It offers protection against the Rota and the Corona viruses. Although there does not appear to be a high

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Prevention And Control Of Beef Calf Scours (cont'd)

incidence of this type of scours in Alberta, the vaccine offers protection for the animals of producers who do encounter it.

Reduction of Stress

Stress is the reaction by which a calf adapts to its environment. A slight change in the environment such as an April snow fall will not have any effect on a mature animal, but it can have a devastating effect on a newborn calf. For this reason management should be directed towards minimizing such stress factors an inclement weather, poor ground surface conditions and overcrowding. This type of approach will pay substantial dividends!

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April 6, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARKET ASSURANCE PROGRAM

by Jerome Manchur
District Agriculturist, Ryley

More than 300 farmers, who attended an informational meeting sponsored by producer associations and Alberta Agriculture in Viking recently, heard the pros and cons of the federal government's proposed Market Assurance Program (MAP).

Ken Galloway, a representative for the Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) Advisory Committee stated that the basic concept of MAP was to give farmers the opportunity to either market all their grain or to get paid for that which they could not market in the current crop year. He said some of the advantages of the program would be:

- Farmers could increase production and also increase income
- The CWB could do a better job of marketing Canada's grain crop and could use the grain transportation system more efficiently
- Farmers could calculate their cash flow accurately, which would add more security and stability to farming
- The program would help to stabilize the highs and lows in the livestock industry
- Farmers could produce what they grow best

MAP would not change the dual marketing system.

Peter Perkins of Herald Grain, Winnipeg, Manitoba, delivered some scathing remarks about the CWB's performance in grain marketing. He felt that the board could do a better job of marketing and that it should have a better market-response system. He pointed out problem areas in the present system.

- The CWB is preoccupied with high quality wheat to the detriment of feed grains

- (cont'd) -

Market Assurance Program (cont'd)

. The quota system is one of the main reasons for excessive summerfallowing

. Cheap Crow Rates result in the movement of a small volume of grain

Mr. Perkins then addressed a few comments to the MAP proposal. He said that MAP would encourage grain storage, while farmers respond better to the movement of grain. He than pointed out that stabilization is fine, but that the only assurance a farmer needs is that he can move his grain at a price that he is happy with. Since MAP would guarantee a price for whatever was grown, initial payments would probably be low to compensate for possible surplus production.

The Western Barley Growers Association apparently does not support MAP as proposed, but is looking at it. The president of the Palliser Wheat Growers Association, George Fletcher, said that he did not feel very positive about MAP. He thought the real problem was transportation and his biggest fear is that MAP would reduce the competitive nature of the Canadian farmer. He felt that the program just might signal the nationalization of Canada's farming industry.

The last speaker, Roy Atkinson, past president of the National Farmers Union, reiterated his support for MAP, but agreed that grain transportation must be improved.

At the end of the meeting a vote was taken on MAP. Forty-six farmers supported the concept, while 122 were against it. Twenty-four wanted more information.

April 6, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANNING YOUR VEGETABLE GARDEN

by Chris Campbell
Horticulturist in Calgary

This is the time that a person who is serious about growing good vegetables should start planning his garden.

Planning your garden ahead of time is important because it gives you a chance to get recommended seed. Although seed is a very small portion of your gardening expenses, it is a large factor in determining the quality of your final, hard-earned product.

Seed Selection

Trials to determine the vegetables and their cultivars that will grow best in Alberta have been conducted by government researchers for years. The results of these trials are contained in an excellent pocket-sized booklet entitled "The Alberta Horticultural Guide". Seed recommended here should be available from most good specialty gardening shops or seed companies. If your search for the seed you want is not successful, you might try one of the large companies in Eastern Canada.

Catalogues from specialty seed companies can provide you with information on new and exciting vegetables. Examples of these are the purple cauliflower, the yellow tomato and rhubarb chard. However, you should take the data in American seed catalogues with a grain of salt because Alberta's climate is very different from most places in that country which publish information on vegetable growing.

Starting Transplants

If you like to grow transplants of those vegetables that require a head start on the season, you can start them indoors under lights, in a greenhouse, in a hot bed or in a cold frame. Vegetables that are often transplanted in Alberta include broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower (these can all be direct seeded) tomatoes, brussels sprouts and melons.

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Planning Your Vegetable Garden (cont'd)

The most common mistake that people make with transplants is to start them too early. This is especially true of seeds that are started indoors under lights where it is difficult to achieve bright enough growing conditions. Melons and tomatoes should not be started before the first week in April and other vegetables should not be started until about the third week in April. You will get better results with small, rather than large transplants.

Garden Layout

Before you plant seeds or put transplants in your garden, plan its layout, preferably on paper, to ensure that it is productive and easy to manage. Following are a few simple rules: plant no more than you can look after with ease in four to six hours a week; allow plenty of room for plants to grow; leave space for walking to prevent soil compaction around the plants; plant tall vegetables where they will not shade shorter ones; and plant frequently harvested vegetables within easy reach.

Length of Supply Season

You should organize your garden so that its supply season will be as long as possible. An easy way to do this is to plan for successive plantings of vegetables like radish, lettuce, green onions, carrots, beets and peas. If you plant them in small quantities over two to eight weeks, you will have fresh vegetables over a longer period, and you will make efficient use of your available space. Quick maturing produce like radishes can be planted three or four times on the same piece of ground. You might also try planting cultivars of the same type of vegetable which have different maturing dates. For example, early, mid-season and late cabbage.

Soil Preparation

If you are starting your first garden, try to put it in an area which receives full sunlight and which is free of rocks and stumps. Preferably, the soil should be a well-drained sandy loam, but most vegetables will grow in a wide range of soils.

- (cont'd) -

Planning Your Vegetable Garden (cont'd)

Add organic matter and fertilizer to your soil, regardless of whether the garden is new or already established, before you start working it. Ideally, the organic matter should be added in the fall before freeze-up to prevent the soil from forming clods when it thaws. If this was not done, add the organic matter in the spring. Either peat moss, manure or compost can be used at a rate of 50 kg/10 m^2.

The best way to determine the amount of fertilizer your garden needs is to take a soil test in the spring. This should be done at least every few years. Soil kits can be obtained from district agriculturists or from Alberta Agriculture's soil and feed testing laboratory in Edmonton. The cost of a soil analysis is $10. If you do not take a soil test, apply either 16-20-0 or 10-30-10 at the rate of 1 kg/10 m^2. After you have spread the organic matter and fertilizer, work the soil to a depth of 25 cm and make a smooth seedbed.

Planting

Many vegetables can be planted earlier than the traditional May 24 weekend. The optimum dates for sowing each vegetable under Alberta conditions can be found in the "Alberta Horticultural Guide".

Garden Maintenance and Harvesting

When the seedlings are well up, thin them to the recommended distance and start weeding. Weeding must be continued throughout the growing season, and be on the lookout for garden pests, especially root maggots which inflict their damage below the ground. Finally, make sure that vegetables which mature at different times do not pass their peak before you pick them.

You can obtain a copy of the "Alberta Horticultural Guide" from your district agriculturist or from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

April 6, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORAGE CEREAL AND OILSEED VARIETIES

Are you growing the forage varieties that are best suited to your farming operations? Have you got a copy of "Varieties of Hay and Pasture Crops for Alberta — 1981"?

In addition to outlining the principles involved in seeding forage crops, this publication provides a seeding guide for the four main soil and climatic areas of the province (shown on a map), and lists the forage crops and mixtures that are recommended for these areas and for the irrigation districts.

"Varieties of Hay and Pasture Crops for Alberta — 1981" also tells you which areas are suitable for specific grasses, legumes and annuals and gives the main characteristics and uses of the recommended varieties.

Another section outlines special purpose crops and describes recently released varieties. There is also a list of licensed forage varieties that have special adaptation characteristics. All the information is given in both metric and Imperial units.

"Varieties of Cereal and Oilseed Crops for Alberta — 1981" indicates the cereal and oilseed production areas of the province on a map and gives the important characteristics of all the wheat, oat, barley, rye, flax and rapeseed varieties that are recommended.

Copies of "Varieties of Hay and Pasture Crops for Alberta -- 1981" (FS120/32), prepared by the Alberta Forage Crops Advisory Committee, and "Varieties of Cereal and Oilseed Crops for Alberta — 1981" (FS100/32), prepared by the Cereal and Oilseed Advisory Committee of the Alberta Agricultural Co-ordinating Committee, can be obtained from your district agriculturists or from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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April 6, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE CROW ISSUE

The Palliser Wheat Growers Association, the Western Barley Growers Association and Alberta Agriculture are jointly sponsoring a meeting in the Viking community hall at 7.30 p.m. on April 15 to discuss "The Crow Issue".

Speakers will include Ken Stickland of Ken Agra Industries; Howard Falkenburg, president of Unifarm, who will put forward the Western Agricultural Conference proposal; and Jim Wright, past-president of the Palliser Wheat Growers Association. He will outline the Commodity Coalition proposal. The talks will be followed by an open discussion period.

Anyone interested in "The Crow Issue" is welcome to attend the meeting.

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April 6, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALLELOPATHY CONFERENCE

The Weed Control Research Society and Alberta Agriculture are sponsoring Allelopathy 1 Conference at the Convention Inn South in Edmonton on May 26, 27 and 28.

What is the Weed Control Research Society and what is allelopathy? The Weed Control Research Society was registered recently to aid in the organization and administration of provincial, national and international weed control conferences, to provide a means of organizing tours and workshops and to obtain an up-to-date list of people involved in weed control research in Alberta.

Allelopathy has been defined as any direct or indirect harmful effect of one plant upon another through the production of chemical compounds released into the environment.

The Allelopathy 1 Conference is intended to bring together researchers and their ideas; to gather information about advances and techniques in allelopathy, tissue culture and genetic engineering; and to stimulate interest in potential research and development in this exciting new field.

The registration fee for the conference is $100, which includes meals.

Further information can be obtained from Marilyn Sware, Weed Control Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-5323).

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April 6, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDERS' DAY SCHEDULED FOR OLDS ON JUNE 12

The University of Alberta's 60th Feeders' Day will be held at Olds this year, and the date is June 12.

This annual event is designed to give livestock producers and researchers a chance to share their experiences and concerns. The 1981 program will feature the following topics:

- "All-concentrate Diets for Feedlot Steers"
- "All about Gilts"
- "Effects of Environment on Digestion in Ruminants"
- "Feeding Starter Pigs"
- "Visual Appraisal of Beef Cattle"
- "Results of Swine Feeding and Management Studies Conducted in 1980-81"
- "Ruminant Feed Evaluation Unit"
- "Feeding the High Producing Dairy Cow"
- "Animal Production and Stress"

During the last five years Feeders' Day has been held in Vermilion, Ponoka, Grand Prairie, Barrhead and Brooks to give livestock producers and other agriculturists in those areas a chance to participate. Prior to that it was always held at the University Farm in Edmonton.

A report of all completed experiments will be published in "The 60th Annual Feeders' Day Report", which will be available to all who attend this year's event.

April 6, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC APPOINTS SENIOR BUSINESS ANALYST

Lorne Ordze, chairman of the Agricultural Development Corporation, has announced the hiring of Ken Ebeling as senior business analyst. He will be located at the corporation's head office in Camrose.

Mr. Ebeling brings to the position many years of banking and finance experience. He joined the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in 1965 and transferred to the Commercial Credit Corporation in 1971. He spent from 1974-1978 with the Federal Business Development Bank, and he has been a credit analyst and corporate account manager with the Bank of British Columbia in Edmonton for the last three years.

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April 6, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TESTING AND INSTRUCTION COORDINATOR APPOINTED

Lawrence McKnight, supervisor of the farm training section of Alberta Agriculture's training and development branch, has announced the appointment of Roger Clayton to the position of testing and instruction coordinator. Mr. Clayton has worked for one year as a research assistant in the section on developing training objectives and testing strategies for the Green Certificate Program.

He was raised on a mixed farm near Airdrie and obtained a B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta in 1972. Following graduation, he worked at the Manyberries Research Station and with the Department of Lands and Forests at Lethbridge. He was also involved in farming/ranching with his father at Airdrie.

In 1979, Mr. Clayton obtained an M.Sc. (agricultural education) at Montana State University. His master's program covered teaching techniques, curriculum development and evaluation in vocational agriculture.

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April 6, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE SENIOR DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS APPOINTED

The director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division, John Calpas, has announced the appointments of senior district agriculturists to Leduc, Peace River and Vegreville.

Resulting from previous senior district agriculturist transfers and one retirement, Mr. Calpas says these appointments represent further progress towards the division's subregional consolidation. Senior district agriculturists are responsible for overall extension program planning and for administration, which includes staff supervision in their home district and two other districts.

Elmer Bittner — Leduc

Elmer Bittner, district agriculturist at Leduc, has been promoted to senior district agriculturist in the same office. He succeeds Brian Colgan who recently transferred to the position of director of land use activities.

Mr. Bittner is a native of Saskatchewan and a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan with a B.S.A. in 1965, having majored in dairy science. He worked with Agriculture Canada in Ontario for four years where he was in charge of dairy plant inspection. He spent the next two years as a plant chemist with Canada Safeway Ltd. and joined Alberta Agriculture's dairy division as a regional dairy specialist in 1972.

Mr. Bittner completed computer science and management development programs at the University of Alberta and was appointed co-district agriculturist at Leduc in 1978. In his present position he will be responsible for co-ordinating extension programs in the Leduc, Strathcona and Stony Plain offices.

Fred de Mille — Peace River

Fred de Mille, district agriculturist at Peace River, has been promoted to senior district agriculturist in Peace River. He replaces John Reid who has been transferred to Rocky

- (cont'd) -

Three Senior District Agriculturists Appointed (cont'd)

Mountain House.

Mr. de Mille was born in Alberta and obtained his B.S.A. with a major in animal science from Montana State University in 1969. He subsequently took a master's degree in animal science at the University of Guelph, graduating in 1971. He spent the next three years as a district agriculturist with the Newfoundland Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the following year with Robin Hood Feed in St. John as sales manager.

Mr. de Mille returned to Calgary in 1975 where he was employed for the next two years by Stirdon Enterprises. Here he was responsible for the installation and sales of grain and feed handling systems throughout the province. He spent a brief period in charge of procurement and contracts for Northern Alberta Rapeseed Processors before joining Alberta Agriculture in 1978. He was appointed co-district agriculturist at High Prairie and transferred to Peace River the following year.

As senior district agriculturist in Peace River, Mr. de Mille will be responsible for co-ordinating extension programs in the Peace River, Manning and Fort Vermilion offices.

A.R. (Jerry) Jones -- Vegreville

Jerry Jones, senior district agriculturist at Taber, has been transferred to the same position in Vegreville.

A native of Innisfail, Mr. Jones obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta in 1951, having majored in animal science. In 1963 he obtained his M.Sc. (agricultural economics) from Michigan State University.

Mr. Jones was first employed by Alberta Agriculture as a district agriculturist at Lethbridge in 1955 after having spent three years as a research officer with Agriculture Canada's research station at Beaverlodge. In 1957 he was transferred to the Taber office as district agriculturist where he remained until 1964. He spent the next six years as head of

- (cont'd) -

Three Senior District Agriculturists Appointed (cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture's farm management branch in Edmonton, and then transferred to the federal farm management division as assistant chief in Montreal. He later became project co-ordinator with the federal economics branch in Ottawa. He returned to Alberta in 1977 and rejoined Alberta Agriculture as senior district agriculturist at Taber.

As senior district agriculturist at Vegreville, he will be responsible for co-ordinating extension programs in the Vegreville, Vermilion and Lloydminster offices.

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COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

1981

HomeExpo 1981
Round-up Centre
Stampede
Calgary, Alberta . . . . April 7 - 12

Provincial 4-H Finals
Edmonton Northlands
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . April 10

"Marketing in the 80's"
Alberta Home Economics Association Conference 81
Red Deer Lodge
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . April 10 - 11

Provincial 4-H Selections
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . May 1 - 4

Allelopathy Conference
Convention Inn South
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . May 26 - 28

15th Biennial Conference of the International Cargo Handling
Co-ordination Association
Edmonton Plaza Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . June 7 - 12

Agricultural Education Seminar
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . June 9 - 11

Alberta Feeder's Day
Olds, Alberta . . . . June 12

Canadian Farm And Industrial Equipment Institute — Annual Conference
Sheraton Centre
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . June 14 - 16

Western Canada Farm Progress Show
Exhibition Grounds
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . June 17 - 20

The National Seminar
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . June 20 - 28

Grain Industry Seminar & Tour
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . June 21 - 30

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Personal Food Production Conference
Fairview College
Fairview, Alberta . . . June 22 - 24

29th International Course on Rural Extension
Wageningen, Netherlands . . . June 28 - July 25

Mid-West Sheep Show
(all breed sheep show)
Lloydminster Agricultural Exhibition Association
Lloydminster, Saskatchewan . . . July 3 - 4

Provincial 4-H Club Week
Camrose Lutheran College
Camrose, Alberta . . . July 3 - 9

Canadian Home Economics Association Conference
Toronto, Ontario . . . July 6 - 9

Breton Field Day
The Breton Plots
Breton, Alberta . . . July 10

Klondike Days
Edmonton Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . July 16 - 25

Provincial 4-H Dairy Show & Team Judging Contest
Red Deer Exhibition Grounds
Red Deer, Alberta . . . July 18

10th International Course on Plant Protection
Wageningen, Netherlands . . . July 20 - October 30

Medicine Hat Exhibition
Exhibition Grounds
Medicine Hat, Alberta . . . July 23 - 25

Provincial 4-H Club Week
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . July 24 - 30

Alberta 4-H Conservation Camp
Silver Creek Ranch
West of Water Valley, Alberta . . . July 26 - August 1

Agriculture Institute of Canada — Annual Conference
Brock University
St. Catharines, Ontario . . . August 9 - 13

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

4-H Expressions & Horse Sense
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . August 10 - 12

11th International Course on Vegetable Growing
Wageningen, Netherlands. . . . . .August 11

Canada Agricultural Extension Council
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . September 14 - 17

Western Nutrition Conference and Feed Industry Conference
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . September 14 - 18

Update '81
Jasper Park Lodge
Jasper, Alberta . . . . October 5 - 9

Alberta Aviation Council — Annual General Meeting & Convention
Jasper Park Lodge
Jasper, Alberta . . . . October 8 - 10

Canadian Banker's Association 9th Agricultural Credit Conference
London, Ontario . . . . October 26 - 28

Women of Unifarm Convention
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . .November 4 - 5

United Grain Growers Ltd — Annual Meeting
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . .November 4 - 5

Edmonton Northlands Farmfair '81
Edmonton Northlands Sales Pavilion and Sportex
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . .November 5 - 16

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
The Coliseum
Exhibition Place
Toronto, Ontario. . . . . .November 12 - 21

The Seed Potato Growers Association of Alberta
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . November 18

Alberta Potato Growers Association
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . November 19

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Alberta Potato Commission
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . November 20

Fall Fair & Mexabition
Saskatoon Prairieland Exhibition
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . November 20 - 24

Agribition & Mexabition
Canadian Western Agribition
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . November 28 - December 4

1982

Unifarm Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . January 11 - 15

Alberta Vegetable Growers Marketing Board -- Annual Convention
Taber, Alberta . . . . January 28

Alberta Canola Growers Association
Calgary Inn, Calgary . . . . January 28 - 29

Alberta Dairymen's Association — Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . January 31 - February 2

Canadian Home Economics Association Conference
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . July 4 - 9

World Arabian Horse Organization — Annual Convetion
Calgary, Alberta . . . . August

United Grain Growers Ltd — Annual Meeting
Winnipeg, Manitoba . . . . November 3 - 4

Agricultural Business Management 1
Goldeye Centre
Alberta . . . . November 15 - 17

Fall Fair & Mexabition
Saskatoon Prairieland Exhibition
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . November 19 - 23

Agribition & Mexabition
Canadian Western Agribition
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . November 27 - December 3

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
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MAY 1 - 1981

April 13, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

April 13, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INSECTICIDE - IMPREGNATED CATTLE EAR TAGS A GREAT SUCCESS

The results obtained from field trials carried out last summer by the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville on the use of insecticide - impregnated plastic ear tags to control horn flies on cattle were excellent, according to Hugh Philip, livestock entomologist in charge of the research.

Mr. Philip says the trials were carried out on herds provided by local ranchers 30 km northeast of Coronation. He also says they were set up to evaluate the effectiveness of one ear tag impregnated with the synthetic pyrethroid insecticide fenvalerate per animal; one ear tag per two animals; one ear tag per three animals and one ear tag per four animals.

Both the tagged and untagged animals were monitored for horn flies every week throughout the summer. Mr. Philip reports that the ear tags reduced the number of horn flies by more than 98 per cent over the summer on all tagged and untagged animals in the herds, including those where only one in four animals was tagged.

He also says that the bulls which had been tagged with the impregnated ear tags were kept essentially free of horn flies as long as some of the cows or heifers in the herds were also tagged. Because bulls always have more flies (up to 5,000) on them than cows or yearlings, many cattlemen are more concerned about protecting their bulls than about protecting their other cattle. However, Mr. Philip thinks that they should be more concerned about protecting their nursing cows and yearlings in view of the fact that research has shown that the daily weight gain of horn fly infested grass-fed yearlings can be reduced by 17 to 30 per cent, and that calves weaned from unprotected mothers were considerably lighter than those whose

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
hone (403) 427-2127

Insecticide - Impregnated Cattle Ear Tags A Great Success (cont'd)

mothers had been protected from horn flies. The lighter weights in the calves from mothers which had not been protected were due to reduced milk production.

The fenvalerate-impregnated ear tags are produced by Shell Canada Ltd., which is hoping to have them on the market in 1981.

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April 13, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARE WE HEADED FOR A DISASTER?*

There has been little emphasis in recent years on breeding for disease resistance in our field crops. The plant breeder appears to be striving to release as many varieties as possible that yield satisfactorily on plots on fallow land and that will pass quality requirements.

However, genetic material is available for the plant breeders to use as sources of resistance to many of our major diseases. In the early 1970's several cereal cultivars were released that were immune to the smuts and that had improved resistance to common root rot.

At a recent meeting of the expert committees on plant diseases, plant breeding and plant quality, eight barley lines were presented for licensing consideration. On the basis of disease resistance, the plant pathologist concerned recommended one of the lines be licensed. However, at a meeting of the plant breeders, the line the pathologist had recommended was turned down and the other lines were recommended for licensing.

What has happened to the guidelines that state that a new line must be equal to or be better in most respects than the varieties it is intended to replace?

Barley growers have lost about 10 per cent of their crop to common root rot each year since barley has been cultivated on the Canadian Prairies. This represents one crop in 10 that is lost, and is a colossal amount of barley to lose to one disease. Last year the loss from common root rot would have been closer to 15 per cent. A seed treatment fungicide is expected to be available soon to help control this disease.

We also put up with disease ridden rape cultivars throughout the 1970's, while the breeders concentrated on lowering erucic acid and glucosinolates in the seed. We must demand better disease resistance in rape (canola) in the 1980's.The yield of Altex, the dominant variety in central Alberta, could, for example, be drastically reduced if weather conditions favored the

- (cont'd) -

Are We Headed For A Disaster?* (cont'd)

development of sclerotinia stem rot. Most rape lines that were recommended to be licensed did not have improved resistance to this disease. The older cultivar Regent has much better resistance to the disease than Altex. Sclerotinia stem rot can be controlled by spraying the foliage with a fungicide before the disease occurs.

We are out of step with the times, in this environmental conscious, energy deficient era, if we are going to apply sprays to control foliage diseases in our major field crops.

Are we earning our daily bread or are we headed for a disaster?

**A concerned plant pathologist with Alberta Agriculture.*

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April 13, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANDLE VERSUS TORCH RAPESEED

Is Candle rapeseed's yield really poorer than that of Torch? Both are short-season Polish varieties and both are low in erucic acid, but only Candle is also low in glucosinolates.

According to Dr. J.G.N. Davidson of Agriculture Canada's research station at Beaverlodge, standard tests carried out across the Prairies, including the Peace River Region, showed Candle's average yield to be about 10 per cent lower than that of Torch.

What has happened since Candle was released? Uniform variety trials conducted at four locations in the Peace River region during the last five years show that Candle averaged a 7 per cent lower yield than Torch, but that its yield varied from 11 per cent higher than Torch to as much as 17 per cent lower at different locations and during different years.

Dr. Davidson points out that since the large range in yields occurred when only the weather, soil type and location varied, it is only reasonable to expect a substantially greater on-farm variation. He also points out that this variation is by no means unique to Candle. Farmers who grow Argentine varieties experienced a similar yield reduction when they switched from the single-low variety, Midas, to the double-low varieties, Tower and Regent. This yield variability is also found in cereal and other crops.

However, according to Dr. Davidson, some farmers consistently produce high yielding Candle rapeseed crops, not only on their best land but over a substantial acreage. He cites the case of a Peace River farmer who grew 3,400 acres of rapeseed in 1978. This area was almost equally divided between Candle and Torch, and averaged 27 bushels to the acre, or about 50 per cent higher than the regional average yield. No real yield difference was observed between the two varieties, and the farmer repeated his success in 1979. Dr. Davidson reports that similar results have been achieved on a smaller scale throughout the Peace River region.

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Candle Versus Torch Rapeseed (cont'd)

More acres were sown to rapeseed in the Peace River region last year than ever before and a higher proportion of this acreage was sown to Candle. Unfortunately, it was not a good season for rapeseed crops – the spring was cool and unusually late, establishment problems were widespread, an unusually hot spell during flowering appeared to cause a lot of pod sterility and the weather during the maturing and harvesting stages ranged from partial drought in some districts to extremely wet in others. The prevalence of such diseases as damping-off, root rot, blackspot and *Sclerotinia* blight was equal to or exceeded that experienced in the worst of previous years. Only the incidence of staghead was down compared with past years.

Candle is considered to be somewhat more resistant to staghead than Torch, but there is some evidence that it is more susceptible to *Alternaria* blackspot. However, the latter needs to be confirmed.

Although there is no objective evidence to support differences in seed dormancy, induced dormancy, germination capacity or resistance to damping-off, there is some evidence of lower germination vigor in Candle. Marked differences in these aspects have apparently been found between seed lots within each variety. Because germination tests measure only germination capacity, which does not necessarily give a true indication of germination vigor, Dr. Davidson thinks there is a need for a simple test to be developed that would measure vigor.

He says there is little if any difference between the maturity of Candle and Torch up to swathing time, but that Candle takes two to seven days longer to dry in the swath than Torch, depending upon the weather. He also says that several rapeseed growers have reported that Candle does not produce volunteer plants in subsequent cereal crops the way that Torch does. No explanation for this phenomenon has been given.

According to Dr. Davidson, there is little difference in the yields of Candle and Torch under favorable growing conditions but under unfavorable conditions, the yield from

- (cont'd) -

Candle Versus Torch Rapeseed (cont'd)

Candle can be considerably poorer than that of Torch. Since Candle is the only double-low or Canola variety available for planting in areas where the season is too short for any of the Argentine varieties, rapeseed growers should provide the best management the season allows.

Candle may always yield a little less than Torch, but Torch is no longer being accepted by the domestic crushing industry, and the trend in export market is moving towards the double low varieties. Dr. Davidson says that a higher yielding replacement for Candle is still a few years away and a short-season Argentine variety is not a current prospect.

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April 13, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREATER OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY REQUIRED

by Andy Birch
District Agriculturist, Stettler

It is going to cost considerably more to plant this year's crop. Major inputs such as fuel, fertilizers and herbicides have increased quite substantially over last year. When you add to these the cost of operating capital at 20 per cent, it becomes apparent some pretty sharp pencil work will be required. Greater attention should be given to such details as soil testing, weed control monitoring and operation combinations that will save time, labor and energy. In essence, the emphasis should be on careful budgeting and greater operational efficiency.

What kinds of cash costs can we anticipate for this year? To answer this question, I met a local group of farmers to gather information and data and to arrive at some sort of consensus as to what production costs for wheat, barley and rapeseed will be for the Stettler area. Because of variations in soil, precipitation, weed problems, rotational practices and management, the costs we came up with will vary somewhat from one area and from one situation to another. Nevertheless, the exercise is useful to the extent that it serves as a rough benchmark.

It is important to note, however, that this "study" concentrated only on cash costs and not on ownership costs such as investments in land, buildings and machinery, or depreciation. Our objective was to determine what the out-of-pocket expenses would be for a crop from pre-seeding to binning.

The farm that the group of farmers evaluated practised a continuous cropping program which included wheat, barley and rapeseed. Interest on operating capital was charged at 20 per cent. Other assumptions were that:

- all field work was performed this spring to reflect current costs
- crops were seeded into stubble

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Greater Operational Efficiency Required (cont'd)

- generally accepted cultural practices were followed
- wild oat and broadleaf herbicides were applied
- the labor charge was $7 per hour
- taxes were $3 per cultivated acre, with crop insurance optional at $3 per acre

Results:

The group estimated the total pre-harvest cash costs for wheat, barley and rapeseed to be approximately $72.21, $74.14 and $70.02, respectively. To these figures were added harvesting costs of $7.15 per acre. If crop insurance were taken out, total cash costs would run as high as $82.86 per acre for wheat, $84.79 per acre for barley and $80.67 per acre for rapeseed.

Since there are many variables influencing costs, the costs that the group arrived at may differ greatly from your own situation. However, they point out the need for careful crop management planning and greater emphasis on operational efficiency.

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April 13, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1982 SCANDINAVIAN AGRICULTURAL TOUR

Have you ever visited the Scandinavian countries? Did you know that the Professional Association of the Department of Agriculture (Alberta) (PADA) has a 21-day agricultural study tour of Denmark, Norway and Sweden planned for July 1982?

The agenda includes a visit to an energy conservation building, a horticultural nursery; a fruit farm, swine, sheep and beef farms, test stations and an auction market. Participants will also visit factories that manufacture machinery, textiles and ceramics, a meat market, dairy farms, dairy processing plants and a factory that manufactures dairy equipment in addition to farms that produce grass seed and silage, a greenhouse and a place that constructs farm buildings.

There will also be visits to research stations and a university and meetings with farm organization, university and government representatives.

Those who participate in the tour will be taken by coach along scenic drives in the rural areas of these countries and will see mountains, fjords and ski resorts. They will also visit museums and famous castles. An overnight steamer cruise that ends in Copenhagen is planned for the last two days of the tour.

The group will leave Alberta on a charter flight that goes directly to Copenhagen. Based on information obtained on March 1, 1981, the cost is $2,560 per person, but there could be an increase of approximately 10 per cent in 1982.

A detailed itinerary should be available in early May. Anyone who is interested in the tour is asked to contact: W. Dietz, PADA Tour Coordinator, Box 330, Vermilion, Alberta, TOB 4MO (Telephone:853-5381).

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April 13, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARKET GARDEN GRANTS CONTINUED

Alberta's Market Garden Development Grant Program is to be continued for the 6th consecutive year.

Initiated in 1976, it is intended to increase market gardening in the province by providing assistance to growers in the form of development grants, which are to be used to buy seed, fertilizer, garden equipment, etc. The grant is $500 for two or more acres (87,120 square feet) of vegetables and/or fruit.

To be eligible for a grant, a market gardener must produce and market all his produce from a minimum of two acres. The grant covers all vegetable crops, except potatoes, that are commonly grown in Alberta and raspberry and strawberry plants that are bearing fruit. The vegetables and fruits must be grown under normally acceptable cultual practices and must be sold through a recognized marketing channel.

Since a market gardener is entitled to a grant for a maximum of only two years, anybody who has already received a grant for two years under the Market Garden Development Grant Program or the former Fresh Vegetable Incentive Program is not eligible for a grant this year. Vegetable growers who are eligible for grants must file an application by July 1 with the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

Additional information on the Market Garden Development Grant Program and application forms for the grants can be obtained from district agriculturists, the Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO or the Alberta Tree Nursery & Horticulture Centre, R.R. 6, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 4K3.

April 13, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OILSEED AND SPECIALTY CROP CONTRACTS

The main advantage of a commodity contract for oilseed and special crops is that it allows farmers to reduce their risks by setting the price of their crop before harvesting or delivering it.

The method commonly used in this type of contracting is for a company to agree to buy whatever quantity of the crop the seller is willing to contract at a given price for delivery during a specific period.

The main drawback of a forward contract is that the specified amount of the crop must be delivered. If the price goes up substantially in the meantime, the specified volume will still have to be delivered in accordance with the agreed contract provision. In contracts that are written without a disaster clause, the farmer would be forced to buy the grain from someone else to fulfil his contractual obligations in the event of a crop failure.

A publication entitled "Oilseed and Specialty Crop Contractors" (FS140/842-1), prepared by Alberta Agriculture's Farm Business Management Branch, lists most of the companies that purchase special crops by contract from farmers in Western Canada. It can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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April 13, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENERGY IN AGRICULTURE

by Nancy Nicholson
District Agriculturist, Three Hills

A paper that recently crossed my desk contained some interesting facts pertaining to energy in agriculture.

First of all, you may have already heard that the Energy Supplies Allocation Board recently moved Agriculture to the "A" category. This means that in the case of an energy supply crisis agriculture would be one of the first to receive a share of what supply was left. The "B" and "C" categories would get lower priorities. However, this situation would be only temporary because the board is designed to handle only short-term disruptions in the fuel supply.

Now let us look at the importance of energy in agriculture. The total Canadian food system, which includes farm production, processing, packaging, transportation, distribution and household food preparation, uses about 15 per cent of the energy in the economy. Farm production itself accounts for only about 18 per cent of the food system's consumption, and, overall, farmers use around 3 per cent of Canada's total energy supply. This includes crude oil, coal, natural gas, hydroelectric, biomass and nuclear energy.

Farmers consume about 7 per cent of the country's gasoline and about 11 per cent of the diesel fuel. The price they are paying for that fuel is one of the lowest of any Western country. A gas price survey done last June showed that the United Kingdom was paying 75¢ a litre for gasoline, West Germany was paying 30¢, and France and Italy were paying more than 90¢. Right now in Canada, we are paying around 28¢ a litre.

The price of oil and gas will no doubt keep rising as will the prices of farm inputs. For every dollar-a-barrel increase in the Canadian price of oil, the price of nitrogen fertilizer

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increases by $5.88 per tonne, the price of anhydrous ammonia by $10.54 and the price of diammonium phosphate by $4.85. If gasoline and diesel fuel prices rose by only 0.87¢ a litre, pesticide prices would increase by about one per cent. Under these circumstances, the cost of producing an acre of wheat or barley would rise by 47¢ while the cost of producing an acre of rapeseed would increase by 57¢.

The hog producer would face a 37¢ a head rise in the cost of production if oil prices increased by a dollar-a-barrel. Feedlot finished beef would cost about $1.16 more a head and the feeding costs in a cow-calf operation would go up by 63¢ a head.

Energy clearly has a substantial effect on the farming industry's production costs. How many more times in the next year will the price of oil rise, and how much more will the farmer receive for his products during that period?

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW CHAIRMAN APPOINTED TO ADC

Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, Dallas Schmidt, has announced the appointment of H.B. (Ben) McEwen to the position of chairman of the board of directors of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC).

Mr. McEwen, who was previously Alberta Agriculture's assistant deputy minister responsible for international marketing will now assume administrative responsibility for ADC in addition to chairing the corporation's board of directors' meetings.

Created in 1972 to provide Alberta producers with an opportunity to obtain credit under reasonable terms and conditions and to act as a lender of last resort, ADC has in excess of one-half billion dollars in direct loans and loan guarantees in its portfolio.

Mr. McEwen replaces Lorne Ordze who has been chairman of ADC since its inception. Mr. Ordze was active in building ADC into an effective lending agency in the Alberta agricultural community. More than 20 per cent of all Alberta producers are currently taking advantage of ADC programs.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

April 20, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEGOTIATING FOR CREDIT

by Andy Birch
District Agriculturist, Stettler, Alberta

At some time or other most people have to borrow money either for personal or commercial reasons. Approaching a lending institution for credit or long-term financing may be an unpleasant experience, but it does not have to be, especially if you know how to negotiate.

Do you approach lending agencies with fear and trepidation, with shaking knees and cap in hand? Probably not, but you may still feel guilty or uncomfortable. A quote taken from J.F. Kennedy, former U.S. president, when modified, is probably relevant here. "Ask not what you can do for your banker, but rather what he can do for you." This attitude puts you on a one-to-one basis with him and can relieve you of needless anxiety.

There is a successful way to negotiate. Indeed, "negotiating is an art" according to Bob Simmermon, leadership specialist with Alberta Agriculture; an art or skill that when learned, developed and applied properly can usually accomplish what you want. Simmermon says be prepared physically, mentally and emotionally if you want to negotiate successfully. Make sure you have all the facts and information about your business at your finger tips. This is where accurate and complete records and financial statements are important.

Simmermon emphasizes the need for setting objectives. You should have a plan or proposal to present to your lender, and it should clearly show what you want to do, how you are going to do it and when it will be done. Remember, if you are not sure of what you intend to do, your lender cannot be sure either; if you are not confident, he cannot be confident and if you are not convinced, he cannot be convinced.

A proper attitude is an integral quality of a good negotiator. It should be positive and healthy. Regard your lender as a partner in your proposal rather than as an adversary,

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Negotiating For Credit (cont'd)

advises Simmermon. Your aim should be to gain his support, confidence and enthusiasm and to make him want to become involved. As Simmermon points out, getting the money should not be your ultimate objective. Your ultimate objective should be to implement a plan which will prove beneficial to your operation. It could lead to increased production and income, improved operational efficiency or enhanced security and safety of the business. Additional financing is merely the means or vehicle through which you achieve your objective.

Do not make unreasonable demands of your lender, but speak with resolve and conviction. Be confident when presenting your proposal and look organized. Whatever you do, warns Simmermon, do not let your emotions interfere.

Patience is another desirable feature of a good netogiator. There are various constaints with regard to rules, regulations, procedures and policies. Realize it is not always possible to obtain financing as quickly as you would like.

Be flexible in your negotiations. Compromises have to be made. There has to be give and take by both sides if agreements are to be made. A negotiated settlement is not a "win" or "lose" situation, says Simmermon, but rather an arrangement whereby the parties to an agreement are mutually satisfied with the outcome.

It may seem like a simple thing, but make sure your lender understands what you are talking about. Farming operations are diverse and complex and some of the words and descriptions may not be immediately clear. Words like honey wagon, slotted floor stanchion tie stalls, double-four-herringbone, free stall and loose housing may be totally meaningless to your lender. Unless he has some knowledge and understanding of the nature of the business, income sources, kinds of expenses and types of equipment and machinery required, negotiating may be unpleasant, unsuccessful or time consuming. When practical and possible, invite your lender to visit your operation.

April 20, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEADLINE FOR EMERGENCY STOP-LOSS PROGRAM

Alberta hog producers are requested to mail in their application forms by May 31, 1981, to qualify for payment on hog sales between April 1, 1980 and March 31, 1981 under the Alberta Emergency Stop-Loss Program for Hogs.

To qualify for payment under this program a hog producer must have raised his hogs in Alberta and have sold them for slaughter during the above period.

More details on the program and application forms can be obtained from district agriculturists and regional swine specialists.

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April 20, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IRRIGATION PUMP TESTING PROGRAM

If you are an irrigation farmer who uses a sprinkler pump, you should know how much water your pump puts out. Do you?

According to Len Ring, irrigation systems engineer with Alberta Agriculture, few farmers in Alberta use a flow meter on their irrigation pump and even the pressure gauges they use are seldom checked for accuracy.

He says that Alberta Agriculture's irrigation division will be conducting a free pump testing program, beginning about mid-May, and that it will be in operation throughout the province. The idea is to encourage the efficient use of energy on the farm in view of increasing energy costs. The program will be similar to many being offered by government institutions and utility companies in the United States.

Upon receipt of a request from a farmer to have his pump tested, the irrigation division's staff will attach pressure, flow and fuel measuring equipment to the pumping unit and monitor its operation while it is running under normal conditions. By measuring the total pressure and flowrate it is possible to calculate the useful power that is being generated, and to compare the overall efficiency of the unit with other units that are powered by the same type of energy. This information can then be used to show whether a particular unit is operating as well as it could.

The owner of the irrigation system will benefit under the program because he will find out exactly how well his pumping unit is performing. Some owners may find that they are pumping more or less water than they had thought. The natural gas and electricity suppliers will benefit because they will know the voltage or pressure that is being delivered to a specific farm, which will enable them to improve their delivery system. Also, it may be possible for a utility supplier to allow more customers on an existing line if his present customers

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Irrigation Pump Testing Program (cont'd)

can reduce their energy consumption. Alberta Agriculture will benefit from the field data they collect about irrigation pumping units that are presently being used in the province.

Mr. Ring says that owners who wish to have their pumps tested under the program will be expected to co-operate by operating their units on the date agreed upon. He also says that good co-operation has already been received from Calgary Power Ltd., Canadian Western Natural Gas Co. Ltd., Dinosaur Gas Co-op and other rural gas co-ops throughout Alberta.

Anyone who would like to have his pump tested under the program should contact his closest irrigation division office. These are located in Bow Island, Strathmore, Vauxhall, Taber, Medicine Hat, Brooks, Lethbridge and Calgary.

The irrigation pump testing program will be supervised by Len Ring and Vince Ellert, irrigation technologist, will be responsible for carrying out the tests. Both these people can be contacted at Alberta Agriculture Center, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 4C7 (Telephone: 329-5153).

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April 20, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TIPS AND TRAPS IN FARM ROLLOVERS

by Merle Good
Financial Management, Alberta Agriculture

Contrary to what some people believe, the rollover provision does not eliminate the tax on capital gains or recaptured capital cost allowance upon the transfer of farm property. Basically a rollover is only a tax deferral. When the property is eventually disposed of, it will be subject to tax. Along with the above belief, some Alberta farm families have the misconception that as long as they sell their farm to their children, they will incur no capital gains, regardless of the transfer value. This is not necessarily correct.

The Income Tax Act provides for a rollover of farm land and depreciable property from a taxpayer to his child if the taxpayer, his spouse or any one of his children were actively engaged in the business of farming immediately before the transfer. To understand the basic rules, the meaning of child and actively engaged in the business of farming must be understood.

A child is defined in the Income Tax Act to include a taxpayer's child, grandchild, great-grandchild, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, adopted children and step-children, as well as spouses who are resident in Canada. Remember, property can be transferred under the rollover provision to non-farming children if one or more of the other children are operating the farm.

What constitutes active farming? For a business to be classified as active, the owner of the property must be responsible for the managerial decisions and be considered a risk taker. Revenue Canada has deemed that any cash rent or crop-share arrangements (except with a child) places the landlord in a non-active position. If the property is custom farmed, however, then the owner is deemed to have maintained the status of an active farmer and would quality for the rollover provision.

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Tips And Traps In Farm Rollovers (cont'd)

Although the rules regarding the rollover provision are straight-forward in practice, the interpretation of the provision can be somewhat confusing. To help in this interpretation, a number of common questions which we receive are listed below.

1. Q. My dad has sold me a half interest in a quarter section for $15,000 resulting in no capital gain. The land is held in joint tenancy. What are the implications?

A. When land is held in joint tenancy, the interest in the land automatically reverts to the remaining tenant. If the son happens to die before his father, his half interest would be deem to be transferred back to his father at fair market value. The son's estate would then be faced with tax on any capital gain. Holding property in tenancy-in-common may eliminate this problem because the son's will will specify to whom his interest in the land is to go. Remember, a capital gain can be rolled down to a child, but a child cannot roll a capital gain up to a parent.

2. Q. Dad wants to sell my brother and me the farm. We both work in town, but my husband rents the land from my father. Can we qualify for the rollover provision?

A. The important point to remember here is that the land must be farmed by either the parents or any one of their children. Since a son-in-law is classified as a child, this criterion has been met. Both the daughter and the son can receive the property under the rollover provision.

3a. Q. When dad died, he was renting the land to a neighbor. He left it all to our mother. Will she have any tax to pay?

A. No. There is no gift or inheritance tax in Alberta, and the rollover provision applies to a spouse, whether or not the land was being farmed by the family.

3b. Q. Our mother wants to sell the farm to us for less than fair market value. What should we do in order to qualify for the rollover provision?

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A. One of you could rent the property from your mother, and, thereby, reinstate your eligibility.

4a. Q. Dad is considering selling me his machinery and the home quarter. The present fair market and tax base values of the various assets are:

	Fair Market Value	Tax Base
Land	$160,000	$31,800 (V-Day Value)
Principal Residence	35,000	35,000 (Fair Market Value)
Buildings	30,000	15,000 (UCC)
Machinery	50,000	25,000 (UCC)
Total	$275,000	$106,800

To obtain a complete tax free rollover, what values should these assets be transferred at?

A. The buildings and machinery, which are depreciable assets, should be transferred at their undepreciable capital cost (UCC) of $40,000 ($15,000 + $ $25,000). The principal residence, which consists of the home plus one acre of land, can be transferred at fair market value ($35,000) with no capital gain being triggered. The remaining land base of 159 acres would be transferred at $31,800 (159 acres x $200/acre). In conclusion, your father could receive $106,800 tax free.

4b. Q. I understand the consequences of land being transferred for more than its tax base. What about buildings and machinery?

A. If the transfer price on declining balance assets (Part XI) is greater than the UCC value, recaptured capital cost allowance (RCCA) will be triggered up to the original cost of the asset. If the transfer price is greater than the original cost, the difference between these two values is a capital gain. Straight line assets (Part XVII) must be transferred at the fair market value. There is no recapture on these

Tips And Traps In Farm Rollovers (cont'd)

assets. If the sale proceeds exceed the greater of their V-Day value or purchase price, a capital gain results.

A new factsheet entitled "Tips and Traps in Farm Rollovers" is recommended reading for a better understanding of the rollover provision. It explains the application of the provision when a farm partnership or corporation is contemplated. It also explains the different regulations that pertain to property transfers upon death, and the problems involved in having an option to purchase in your will.

You can obtain a copy of "Tips and Traps in Farm Rollovers" (FS 837-7) from your local district extension office, the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO or the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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April 20, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRITICALE PRODUCTION IN ALBERTA

Of the 7,200 ha of triticale grown in Alberta last year, 6,000 were grown under contract and destined for the flour market. To date very little has found its way into the feed market.

However, research results on the feeding quality of triticale, which is a cross between wheat and rye, indicate that it could constitute a high percentage of the total diet of livestock, and that it could serve as the only cereal grain in laying hen and chick rations. Here it could reduce the level of soybean meal, and thereby, substantially reduce poultry ration costs.

In the case of hogs, research has indicated that triticale has a feeding value similar to that of a mixture of barley and wheat, and that it can be used satisfactorily in both growing and finishing hog rations. In steer rations, research has shown that triticale and barley can be interchanged with no measurable difference in rate of gain.

Because triticale, which has an average protein content of 15-16 per cent, has not yet established itself in the feed market, anyone who grows it this year would be wise to seriously consider contracting his production. There are a number of companies in Alberta who are licensed to contract triticale, and most of them offer a number of attractive options.

A production contract provides a minimum guaranteed price, immediate cash and a stable cash flow. Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch in Lacombe or Lethbridge has a list of the triticale contractors in the province.

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Triticale Production In Alberta (cont'd)

And anyone who is planning to grow this crop for the first time will find a lot of useful data in Alberta Agriculture's publication entitled "Triticale Production in Alberta" (FS118/20-1). It contains information on varieties, preparing the seed bed, seeding, weed control, disease control, irrigation, harvesting, the use of triticale for silage and an estimate of costs and returns under irrigation and dryland production conditions in southern Alberta.

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April 20, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL VEHICLE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Do you know what the agricultural vehicle equipment requirements are under the Alberta Highway Traffic Act? There are specific requirements for self-propelled vehicles like farm tractors, combines and swathers and there are specific requirements for towed implements like cultivators, tillers, discs and hay wagons.

Self-propelled Vehicles

A self-propelled vehicle travelling on highways, country roads and trails, or even in a parking lot, must have a rear view mirror; a minimum of two and a maximum of four white head lamps; two rear red clearance lamps to indicate the width of vehicles that are more than 2.05 m; a minimum of two red tail lamps that light when the head lamps are on; a minimum of two red stop lamps that light when the service breaks are applied; two red rear reflex reflectors located not less than 0.4 or more than 1.6 m above the ground; and an approved slow-moving vehicle triangle located not less than 0.9 m or more than 1.5 m above the ground on vehicles that have a maximum service speed of 40km/h or less; and a service brake that is capable of stopping the vehicle and any attachment within 12 m at a speed of 30 km/h or at maximum speed if that is less than 30 km/h.

Towed Vehicles

A towed vehicle operated on Alberta's road network that is used by the public must have two red clearance lamps visible from the rear to indicate the overall width of the vehicle if it is more than 2.05 m; two red rear reflex reflectors located not less than 0.4 m or more than 1.6 m above the ground; an approved slow-moving vehicle triangle located not less than 0.9 m or more than 1.5 m above the ground if the maximum service speed is 40 km/h or

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Agricultural Vehicle Equipment Requirements (cont'd)

less; a minimum of two red stop lamps that light when the service break is applied to the towing vehicle; a minimum of two red tail lamps that light when the head lamps of the towing vehicle are on; mudflaps or other wheel spray reducing devices; a safety chain in addition to the regular hitch if the vehicle is to be towed more than 35 km from the residence.

Additional information on the Alberta Highway Traffic Act can be obtained from Alberta Transportation, Transportation Building, 9630-106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2B8.

April 20, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A NEW PASTURE GRASS

A recent Alberta Agriculture publication entitled "Meadow Bromegrass – A New Pasture for Western Canada" says that this forage has good potential when it comes to reseeding both pasture and rangeland.

It has a less pronounced creeping characteristic than ordinary bromegrass and has an abundance of basal leaves, which makes it more suitable for grazing than for hay. Its ability to recover rapidly after grazing is one of its most valuable characteristics. And it can extend the normal grazing season considerably by its continued production into the fall and its early spring growth.

According to the publication, meadow bromegrass performed well under irrigation test conditions and favorably under dryland conditions. However, it takes longer to become established than smooth bromegrass and it is sensitive to spring flooding.

Copies of "Meadow Bromegrass – A New Pasture Grass for Western Canada" (FS127/30-1) can be obtained from district agriculturists and from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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April 20, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PULSE GROWERS ASSOCIATION FORMED

In case you have not already heard, a pulse growers' association has been formed in Alberta to provide a common voice for all the dry bean, pea, fababean, lentil and soybean growers in the province. It is also open to all processing bean and pea growers.

What can the association do for you? It will provide you with information through a newsletter and meetings on the market situation and outlook, including recent prices, as well as information on the latest technology. The association plans to improve the pulse crop equipment situation, to promote pulse crops grown in Alberta, to stimulate research and to assist with demonstration plots and other trials. It will also protect Alberta pulse growers' interests when problems arise.

The association would very much appreciate your support. The membership fee is $25 per year for industry and $20 per year for pulse growers.

Requests for membership should be accompanied by a cheque or money order made out to the Pulse Growers Association of Alberta and sent to the Pulse Growers Association of Alberta, c/o Blair Roth, Secretary-Treasurer, Agriculture Center, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 4C7.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STOCKMEN'S FOUNDATION TO STAGE MAJOR ART SHOW AND SALE

by Frank Jacobs
Stockmen's Foundation

Can you move ahead if you are looking back?

Yes, say the people at the Stockmen's Foundation in Calgary. Their organization is chartered to "remember and honor the people who built the livestock industry" so they're looking back, but in May they're coming up with a big forward looking first: Canada's first public showing and auction of western and wildlife art by a charitable foundation.

Charlie Beil
in his Banff studio

The sponsors have spared no effort to make it not only a first, but a best! Included in the show and sale is an original pastel by world famous O.N. Grandmaison. And there is a bronze by Western Canadian sculptor, the late Charles Beil of Banff. Interest in the show and sale has been fantastic, with contributions from artists in the four Western Canadian provinces and five northwestern states.

Over 400 entries were received by the committee and these were "juried" down to 104 by three art experts: Dr. Robert Abbey of Penticton, B.C., a collector and art authority; internationally-known Calgary artist Rick Grandmaison, and artist and curator Joan Cardinal-Schubert from the Nickle Arts Museum on the University of Calgary campus.

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Stockmen's Foundation To Stage Major Art Show And Sale (cont'd)

Among the successful entrants are: the late Bill Godlonton of Lethbridge; Barbara Roe Hicklin of Calgary; Mac Mackenzie of Cochrane; Leon Levesque of Pincher Creek; Octogenarian Nigel Lawrence of Red Deer; and Jean van Belkum of Medicine Hat.

Oil and watercolor paintings, ink and charcoal drawings, as well as cast bronzes and wood sculptures, will be offered at this prestigious event. Awards will be made in the six categories. In addition, there will be a "Purchase Award", with the winning item being bought for the foundation's permanent collection.

A special Trail Boss Award is being made posthumously to the late Charlie Beil. Mrs. Charlie Beil will accept the award — a specially-sculptured bronze cow by Cochrane artist Mac Mackenzie.

The sale, to be held in the Palliser Hotel, Monday, May 11, will be proceeded by a gala evening on Sunday, May 10, at which tribute will be paid to the winning artists and to Mr. Beil.

Participants in these ceremonies will include Alberta's lieutenant-governor, Frank Lynch-Staunton, as well as two former lieutenant-governors — Grant MacEwan and Ralph Steinhauer.

The public is invited to free showings of the art on Sunday and Monday afternoons, May 10 and 11.

The Stockmen's Foundation has offices in Calgary at 2116 - 27 Avenue North East. For information about the show and sale contact the Foundation by phoning (403) 230-3338.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA CASH GRAIN MARKET LTD

Alberta is to have a cash grain market.

This was decided at a meeting in Edmonton of representatives of the grain industry who formed an association to be known as the Alberta Cash Grain Market Ltd. The meeting was convened by the Alberta Grain Commission.

A cash grain market will facilitate a central meeting place for farmers and others involved in the grain trade to buy and sell feed grain contracts. The advantage of such a market is that it provides an efficient marketing link between the producers and users of feed grains.

Jack Gorr, a farmer from Three Hills, was elected chairman of the temporary board of directors of the Alberta Cash Grain Market Ltd.

Following is a list of the directors.

Ed Thiessen	Cattle Feeder	Carseland
Fred Randle	Farmer	High River
Norm Thurn	Farmer	Beiseker
Con Yurko	Farmer	Hairy Hill
Jim Marshall	Federated Co-op Feeds	Edmonton
Aart Spyker	Ritchie-Smith	Abbotsford, B.C.
Joe Sadnicki	United Grain Growers	Calgary
Jim Harriman	Palliser Grain Co.	Calgary
John Channon	Alberta Grain Comm.	Edmonton

Further information on the new cash grain market can be obtained from John Channon, chairman of the Alberta Grain Commission, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8. (Telephone: 427-7329).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLOWDOWN – A STRATEGY FOR THE EIGHTIES

by Larry Gareau
Secretary-Manager, Alberta Forage Seed Council

Everyone is concerned about the increasing cost of applying commercial soil nutrients and about the increased tillage being dictated by the present trend towards intensive soil cultivation for maximum crop production.

Conscious also of the evidence of soil degradation resulting from the questionable over-use of summerfallow, the Alberta Forage Seed Council is suggesting, as a profitable alternative to this wasteful practice, the use of clover plowdown on some 10 million acres of land that is usually summerfallowed in the higher moisture areas of Western Canada. It has published an article in its "Forage Seed Notes" which deals with the concept of plowdown. This article outlines the benefits and the management required and answers many of the questions being asked about this concept.

The use of nitrogen-fixing legumes in rotation with other crops is a well recognized practice for the purpose of nitrogen economy, soil improvement and the maintenance of fertility. However, as long as there was an ample supply of low-cost nitrogen fertilizers, many farmers thought it was more profitable to apply them directly and to product marketable crops on a continuous basis. But the drastic change that is occurring in the international energy fuel field calls for a re-evaluation of the concept of applying high rates of nitrogen fertilizers.

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Plowdown — A Strategy For The Eighties (cont'd)

The high nitrogen-fixing ability of our clovers — red, alsike and sweet-clover — and their natural adaptation to the Western Canadian climate and soils, as well as their relatively low cost and the availability of high grade seed, presents very attractive advantages in favour of re-adapting their use on a large scale, especially when summerfallow is being considered.

The Alberta Forage Seed Council's brochure entitled "Plowdown — A Strategy for the Eighties" is available from district agriculturists, seed firms and the council headquarters at 601, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROCESSED ALFALFA EXPORT SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Canadian processed alfalfa prices are expected to be close to those recorded in 1980.

Bob Prather of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch reports that rising costs and generally higher forage and feed grain prices suggest that processed alfalfa prices will remain close to those of the past season.

American prices for processed alfalfa products are currently running at or above last year's level. While demand has softened in response to the moderate, open winter feeding period this year and to lower margins on livestock, supplies have been sufficiently low to support prices at their present level. The drought-reduced alfalfa yields of 1980 and the large volume of export bookings for the 1980-81 crop year have reduced available U.S. domestic supplies.

According to Mr. Prather, production levels and prices of sun-cured products from California and Oregon will be key elements in the Japanese market for the coming year. Prices are expected to be at least equal to those of last year's initial level and no significant decrease in available product is expected. The Nebraska and Kansas production and pricing levels will hold the key to European markets in the coming season. Conditions in these states to date are uncertain because prospects are tied to future developments in soil moisture conditions and the outlook for livestock feed sales.

Alberta and/or Canada's sale prospects to the European Economic Community (EEC) are not good at this time. Mr. Prather reports that as of February 1, 1981, only 1,942 tonnes were exported by Canada to the EEC during the past crop year and that little more is expected to be exported during the remainder of this crop year. However, much will depend upon the 1981 supply and demand situation in the EEC.

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Processed Alfalfa Export Situation And Outlook (cont'd)

The Japanese market traditionally absorbs 80 to 90 per cent of Canada's exports of processed alfalfa, mainly in the form of dehy and sun-cured pellets. However, their demand for cubes has been increasing and their pellet requirements are believed to have levelled off at between 300,000 and 320,000 tonnes. Canada supplied more than 210,000 tonnes of pellets in 1979 and is the largest supplier of dehy alfalfa. The U.S. is the largest supplier of sun-cured products.

Mr. Prather says the changing value of the Japanese yen in terms of the Canadian dollar will be an important factor in Japanese sales in the 1980-81 crop year. Its rate was recently 20 per cent above the 1980 level, reflecting a much weaker Canadian dollar. However, this situation does not take into account changes in the relative exchange rates of competing countries, inflation and other related factors.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ALBERTA HOG ASSURED RETURNS PROGRAM

The Alberta Hog Assured Returns Program, which will replace the Alberta Emergency Stop-Loss Program for Hogs that expired on March 31, will come into effect in the next few weeks and will be retroactive to April 1.

The new program is basically an insurance program that is intended to provide Alberta slaughter hog producers with supplemental payments that are sufficient to meet operating costs during periods of low prices.

The main differences between the old program and the new one is that participation in the new one will be voluntary and participants will be charged a premium. It is anticipated the premium will be automatically substracted from sales cheques, and that it will be in the neighborhood of 5 per cent of gross sales, half of which will be paid by the provincial government. Individual claims are expected to be limited to 5,000 hogs per year.

Producers who enrol in the program will probably be required to sign a four-year contract, and those who do not sign up initially are expected to be able to do so the following year.

It is also expected that payments under the program will be distributed on a monthly basis even though they will be calculated on weekly average market returns.

Details of the Alberta Hog Assured Returns Program will be published as soon as they have been finalized.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BURNING STUBBLE

Until recently there has been little scientific evidence on the consequences of stubble burning. However, recent studies, carried out at Agriculture Canada's research stations at Melfort, Indian Head and Swift Current over a 17-year period, warn of serious soil problems in the not too distant future for those who follow this practice.

The studies showed that:

. The heat from burning straw penetrated to a depth of only one cm into the soil and that the maximum temperature reached was 422° C on the top of the straw.

. Between 32 and 76 per cent of the straw's weight and nitrogen content was lost in the burn, but no phosphorous was lost.

. Burning reduced the soil's microbial numbers and their activity considerably and immediately. And these effects were long-lasting on recurrent burning.

. There was no long-term build-up of nutrients in the soil even though burning resulted in a small, immediate increase in the mineral nitrogen and phosphorus available to plants.

. Repeated burning over a 17-year period reduced the amount of organic matter in the soil and the ability of the soil to convert this material into the plant-available mineral form. It also increased the susceptibility of the soil to water erosion, increased compaction and, consequently, reduced the ease with which water entered the soil.

. Annual burning did not affect grain yields on these fertile soils during the 17-year burning period.

Dr.C. A. Campbell of the Swift Current research station reports that the study results clearly show that stubble burning has an immediate and a long-term effect on the bio-

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Burning Stubble (cont'd)

logical, physical and chemical properties of the soil, and that those involved in the work have found numerous danger signals that can only lead to future problems. He says "Unfortunately, the soils used in the long-term studies were so fertile and rich in humus that the deteriorating soil conditions have not yet been reflected in yields and will probably not be evident for many more years." This, he says, is the main reason that it is so difficult to convince farmers of the danger of following this practice. Most farmers are more concerned with their numerous immediate problems than they are with those of tomorrow. "They should remember", Dr. Campbell says, "that their grandchildren will be here long after they are gone".

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRING MANAGEMENT OF TAME PASTURES

An average calf will gain two pounds per day over the whole grazing season, and forage yields will be good, if pastures are not grazed too early and kept in good condition during this period.

A feed shortage, wet corrals and the necessity of doing other farm work frequently result in a pasture being used much too early, according to Alberta Agriculture's forage crops specialist, Myron Bjorge. He points out that while the quality of new growth of both grasses and legumes is considerably in excess of livestock requirements, daily gains are poor because the daily intake is low. Also, pastures which are grazed too early quickly become overgrazed and unproductive. The grasses and legumes do not have a chance to grow enough to produce rapidly or to rebuild the necessary food reserves in their root systems.

Mr. Bjorge recommends the following management practices to achieve pastures with a high carrying capacity that produce calves with good gains.

- Keep livestock on hay or other feed until pastures are ready. A small pasture can be used for a clean feeding and resting area. It is a mistake to keep animals on preserved feed if they have access to a large pasture because they will still over graze it.

- Turn livestock out to pasture when the stand is six to eight inches high. An estimated yield of half a ton per acre means that a dense stand of forage is ready to graze.

- Continue to offer animals preserved feed for a while after they are first put out to graze. It is preferable to put the them in a small pasture to start with so that they are close to the hay or other preserved feed.

- Make sure that your pasture is fertile. Nitrogen is the nutrient that is most often deficient, especially in pastures that have less than 25 per cent legume in the stand. In the black and grey-wooded soils, for example, grassy pastures that are deficient in nitrogen respond well to an application of 50 to 100 pounds of this nutrient and to even higher rates.

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Spring Management of Tame Pastures (cont'd)

The growth will be more continuous if a high application of nitrogen is split between the spring and early summer. Phosphorous is also often deficient, and potassium and sulphur can be lacking. Soil tests should be used as a guide to fertilization.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROVINCIAL 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING FINALISTS

Left to right: Allan Shenfield, vice-president, Edmonton Northlands; Cathy Botten, Boyle; Karen Leonhardt, Drumheller; Brenda Kissel, Bonnyville; Irene Leavitt, director, Home Economics & 4-H.

Karen Leonhardt of Drumheller, who is an avid debater, won first prize at the Provincial 4-H Public Speaking Finals in Edmonton, with her talk entitled "Stepping into the Workforce – My Advice for Canadian Youth".

Brenda Kissel of Bonnyville took second place with her speech to promote the value of sports among the young. It was entitled "Sports – Our Leisure Need".

Cathy Botten of Boyle was third. Her speech, "Cries for Help", was designed to encourage parent/teen communications.

The other six finalists were: Karoden Maschmeyer of Bruderheim, Tane Wright of Westerose, Irene Opden Dries of Rocky Mountain House, Karen Jorgenson of Oyen, Jay Daniels of Rolling Hills and Shannon Leinweber of Balzac.

"Youth in Canada" was the general theme of this year's Provincial 4-H Public Speaking Finals.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEADLINE FOR ALBERTA SUMMER FARM EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS

Potential employers and employees under the Alberta Summer Farm Employment Program must submit their application forms to their nearest Canada farm labor pool office before May 22, 1981.

Designed to provide farm work experience for students during their summer vacation, the program has attracted more than 26,000 young people since it was initiated in 1972.

Any Alberta farmer is eligible to employ a student under the program, providing he or she is not a member of the employer's family. The government will pay half the student's monthly salary up to a maximum of $300.

Applicants must be at least 15 years old and have the written consent of their parents if they are under 18. They must also have resided in Alberta for the past 12 months and they they must be legally entitled to work in Canada. In addition, they must be prepared to work for at least one month and to attend one of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety seminars.

Applications from potential employers under the program will be dealt with on a first come, first served basis, with priority being given to those who did not participate in last year's program.

Employer and employee application forms can be obtained from any district agriculturist or Canada farm labor pool office.

Further details on the Alberta Summer Employment Program can be obtained from Bernie Yakimyshyn, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8. (Telephone:427-2172).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A HISTORY OF HOME ECONOMICS IN ALBERTA

Have you heard of "What's Past is Prologue"? It is a colorful and lively account of the home economics profession in Alberta from 1902 up to the present.

The first addition of "What's Past is Prologue" was published in 1967, and this second edition was written to up date and add to previously research material. It contains two major sections, which are interspersed with pictures, anecdotes and quotations. The first section lists events that have taken place in the home economics profession from 1902 to the present and covers important happenings that have taken place in both the profession and the professional associations.

The second section contains submissions on the many aspects of home economics. You can, for example, read about the history of home economics in extension, technical schools, normal schools, agricultural colleges, continuing education, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Health and Welfare, business, marketing, etc. This section also contains a history of home economics at the University of Alberta.

Those who researched and wrote this facinating book believe that its readers will get a real feeling of being part of this aspect Alberta's history.

Copies of "What's Past is Prologue", published by the Alberta Home Economics Association, can be obtained from the Alberta Home Economics Association, Box 1052, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2X4. The price is $11.95 per copy plus $1 for handling and mailing, and cheques should be made payable to "Past is Prologue" — Alberta Home Economics Association.